

# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

RECEIPTS *AND* EXPENDITURES

*of the*

**Town of Milford,**

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 11,

**1879.**

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MILFORD, MASS.

COOK AND SONS, STEAM JOB PRINTERS,

*Journal Office, 1879.*



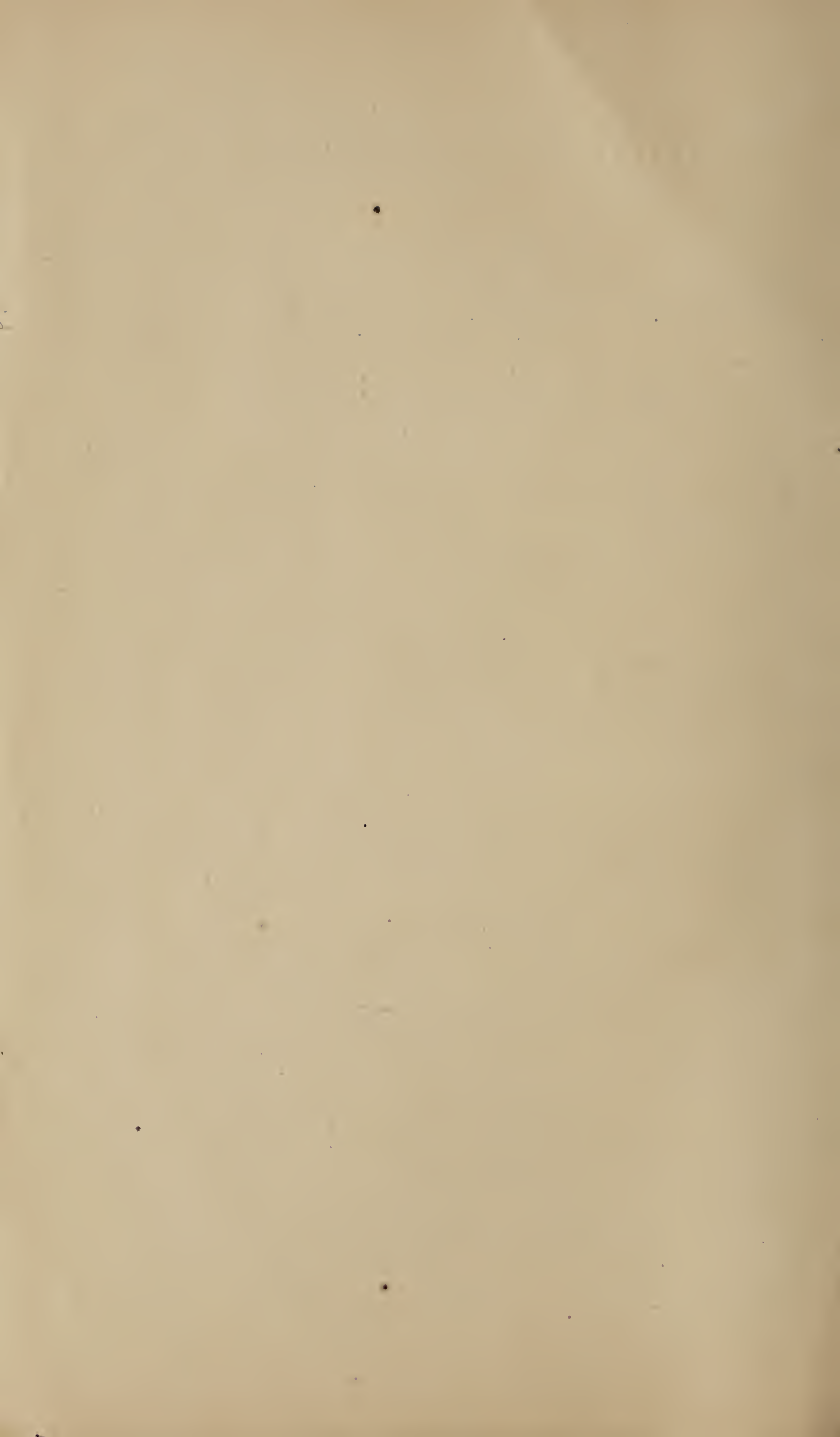
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES  
OF THE  
TOWN OF MILFORD,  
CONTAINING REPORTS OF  
THE TREASURER, THE SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF THE  
POOR, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, TRUSTEES OF VERNON  
GROVE CEMETERY, TOWN CLERK, ENGINEERS,  
AND TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN LIBRARY,  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 11, 1879.

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MILFORD, MASS.

COOK AND SONS, STEAM JOB PRINTERS,

*Journal Office, 1879.*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 13, 1879.

Amount in hands of Treasurer, February 19, 1878.....	\$6,155 88
Received of J. D. Hunt, collector, tax of 1874.....	212 58
“ “ “ “ 1875.....	100 00
“ “ “ “ 1876.....	3,211 80
“ “ “ “ 1877.....	7,708 86
“ J. H. Wood, “ “ 1878.....	69,735 30
Borrowed of Home National Bank.....	9,000 00
“ Milford National Bank.....	8,000 00
“ A. J. Sumner.....	3,000 00
<i>Received of</i>	
Edward A. Brown, County Treasurer, rent of police court room, two years.....	600 00
Edward A. Brown, County Treasurer, dog tax.....	497 03
Charles Endicott, State Treasurer, corporation tax....	1,992 48
“ “ school fund.....	345 62
“ “ National Bank tax...	966 29
“ “ state aid.....	3,984 80
Kidder, Peabody & Co., interest on Hop. R. R. bonds.	489 00
B. H. Montague, rent of town hall.....	387 27
“ “ lockup.....	176 50
Milford Savings Bank, bonds sold.....	40,000 00
Cook Brothers, pigs sold.....;	53 27
John S. Mead, “ .....	18 32
“ 1 yoke of oxen.....	146 37
“ “ .....	136 81
A. Hixon, Auctioneer's license.....	2 00
A. W. Keene, “ .....	2 00
W. A. Coles, “ .....	2 00
E. F. Morse, “ .....	2 00
N. B. Williams, “ .....	2 00



Wm. H. Daniels, land sold.....	250 00
N. W. Heath, bowling alley license.....	10 00
Joseph Shields, peddler's license.....	15 00
Wm. Remick, billiard license.....	10 00
Wm. A. Pond, ".....	20 00
Thos. Kelley, ".....	10 00
O. Quimby, ".....	20 00
Wm. M. Parker, druggist's license.....	1 00
Henry E. Morgan, ".....	1 00
J. Allen Rice, ".....	1 00
A. H. Sweet, ".....	1 00
T. B. Bailey, ".....	1 00
Alfred Goucher, work by town teams.....	5 00
B. E. Harris, " ".....	21 00
S. Mathewson, " ".....	40 00
Thomas Coyne, " ".....	13 80
L. Grow, " ".....	10 50
Isaac Cushing, " ".....	13 50
F. A. Taft, " ".....	7 50
Charles Colburn, " ".....	22 50
A. C. Rounds, " ".....	33 55
Alfred Goucher, assessment on drain and labor.....	18 00
Albert Adams, " " ".....	26 50
W. B. Hale, " " ".....	13 00
A. C. Mayhew, " " ".....	25 00
Aaron Claflin, donation.....	100 00
Mixer Gibbs, assessment on drain.....	25 00
A. Wheeler, " ".....	25 00
E. Taft, work by town teams.....	3 00
G. M. Greene, ".....	10 00
Patrick Gillon, ".....	4 50
Cook Brothers, ".....	3 00
E. L. Wires, ".....	30 50
A. A. Taft, ".....	13 50
Rufus Taft, ".....	3 00
J. E. Walker, ".....	114 70

Heirs of Nathan George, work by town teams.....	27 50
Wm. Staples, " " .....	75
H. C. Skinner, " " .....	50
G. N. Hayward, " " .....	3 30
Aaron Claflin, " " .....	3 00
S. Mathewson, " " .....	2 80
I. N. Davis, " " .....	50
L. P. Jones, " " .....	50
J. M. Woods, " " .....	3 00
Henry E. Fales, " " .....	2 00
E. B. Taft, " " .....	80
R. P. Harrington, concrete walk on Bow street.....	14 41
Nelson Parkhurst, " " .....	17 97
H. A. Yeoman, " " .....	20 48
Mrs. A. H. Hastings, " " .....	14 38
Geo. L. Thayer, " " .....	62 18
A. G. Underwood, sidewalk on Pearl street.....	24 66
Geo. Whitney, " " .....	16 28
Mrs. A. R. Tilden, " " .....	23 78
B. H. Spaulding, " " .....	25 68
C. Sweeney, " " .....	16 42
B. H. Spaulding, rowen.....	12 00
Fred. A. Hill, gas dome.....	1 50
John Murphy, glass globe.....	1 00
Wm. Ball, glass globe.....	1 00
Thos. Eastman, gas post.....	10 00
D. B. Rockwood, administrator, concrete walk.....	13 00
Jos. H. Wood, collector, discount on county tax.....	35 00

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\$158,204 62

Paid on Selectmen's orders..... 152,102 41

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Amount in hands of Treasurer, Feb. 13, 1879..... \$6,102 21

All of which is respectfully submitted,

ETHAN C. CLAFLIN,

*Treasurer.*

## COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

J. D. HUNT, COLLECTOR FOR 1875.

DR.

Balance in his hands uncollected, Feb. 19, 1878.....	\$1453 84
Received for interest.....	22 75
	<hr/>
	\$1,476 59

CR.

By cash paid Treasurer.....	\$100 00
Abatements .....	1255 71
	<hr/>
	\$1,355 71
Balance uncollected in his hands, Feb. 11, 1879....	\$120 88

J. D. HUNT, COLLECTOR FOR 1876.

Balance in his hands uncollected, Feb. 19, 1878.....	\$4425 68
Reassessed in 1878.....	72 38
Received interest on 1876 tax.....	224 11
	<hr/>
	\$4,722 17

CR.

By cash paid Treasurer.....	3211 80
Abatements.....	1146 31
	<hr/>
	\$4358 11
Balance in his hands uncollected Feb. 11. 1879.....	<hr/>
	\$364 06



## J. D. HUNT, COLLECTOR FOR 1877.

## Dr.

Balance of uncollected taxes Feb. 19, 1878.....	\$11661 33
Reassessments.....	109 38
Received interest.....	449 70
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	\$12,220 41

## Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer.....	\$7708 86
Abatements .....	227 01
Discount on taxes for 1877.....	8 44
	<hr/>
	\$7,944 31
	<hr/>
Balance in his hands Feb. 11, 1879.....	\$4,276 10

## JOSEPH H. WOOD, COLLECTOR FOR 1878.

## Dr.

Taxes committed in 1878.....	\$82926 34
Reassessments.....	201 13
Received for interest.....	111 12
	<hr/>
	\$83,238 59

## Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer.....	\$69735 30
Paying County Tax.....	5201 89
Discounts .....	3645 25
Abatements .....	689 62
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	\$79,272 06
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Balance in hand uncollected Feb. 12, 1879.....	\$3966 53
Paid Ethan C. Claffin, Treasurer, for discount for early payment of County Tax.....	\$35 00

## REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

Statement of Appropriations and Receipts for the year ending February 10th, 1879.

### REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Paid Lewis Phipps, labor.....	\$ 505 50
“            paying help.....	5204 74
C. O. Woodbury, labor.....	708 30
Bartlett & Ellis.....	121 02
Aaron Claflin, breaking roads, 1877.....	18 00
T. C. Eastman, grain.....	372 43
J. E. Walker, use of horse, 1877.....	11 75
John Bradley, handles for sledges .....	1 50
Jeremiah Wheelock, 1 yoke of oxen.....	150 00
John L. Mead, hay.....	17 70
Samuel Gaskill, breaking roads, 1877.....	3 50
Galon Davis & Co., labor and stock, water works.....	5 04
Field & Crosby, coal, hay, straw and lumber.....	312 72
H. M. Taft, 1 yoke of oxen.....	150 00
Lewis Wood, six bridge sleepers.....	20 00
David Kenney, gravel.....	1 90
Arne & Co, feed.....	16 00
C. T. Crosby, furnishing and labor.....	40 40
Adin Ball, labor.....	8 75
O. C. Cook, breaking road, 1877.....	2 62
Mrs. Fox, 1 chestnut tree.....	3 50
C. A. Ambler, grain.....	71 95
E. A. & L. A. Cook, wood.....	15 16
Henry Willard, labor and expenses.....	124 05
C. F. Wood, repairs, etc.....	3 50
Stevens & Moran, repairs, etc.....	59 56
George W. Lothrop, belt for crusher.....	46 65

E. J. Prentice, grain.....	87 17
Smith Cushman, repairs.....	32 60
I. N. Davis, hay.....	12 90
H. L. Shattuck, painting.....	4 00
Otis Nelson, gravel.....	27 90
T. G. Kent, chestnut trees.....	13 00
John S. Mead, services and use of team.....	450 00
D. B. Rockwood, labor and lumber.....	6 45
A. A. Taft, 33 chestnut trees.....	30 00
Ira Ide, rent of barn and blacksmithing.....	146 54
James Boyden, breaking roads, 1877.....	2 00
C. C. Fisk, sawing logs.....	25 44
John Madden, grain.....	7 15
Boston & Albany Railroad, freight on castings.....	4 48
Samuel Walker, labor in 1877.....	10 00
S. Mathewson, overpaid on street scrapings.....	5 75
A. Thwing, breaking roads in 1877.....	7 00
Blake Crusher Company, castings.....	66 22
A. Stevens, blacksmithing.....	65 84
Hopedale Machine Company, repairs of tools.....	12 87
Elizabeth Sherman, curb stone.....	43 82
M. McTague, breaking roads.....	80
Hopedale Stable, breaking roads.....	84
B. E. Harris, horse blankets.....	3 50
J. H. Putnam, use of horse 9 days, 1877.....	4 50
H. S. Cushman, repairs.....	14 80
A. C. Rounds, 3 chestnut trees.....	3 00
Elias Whitney, poles for railings.....	10 06
D. B. Jenks, supplies.....	10 53
J. S. Mead, oil and tallow.....	9 03
“ pasturing oxen, 6 weeks.....	4 50
“ keeping oxen on hay, 13 weeks.....	39 00
“ pasturing two horses.....	18 25
“ 710 lbs. hay.....	7 10
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	\$9,183 28



## TEACHING SCHOOL.

Appropriation, \$16,500 00.

Jennie L. Goodrich.....	\$249 00
Maggie L. Murphy.....	306 00
Susan E. Inman.....	306 00
Faustina M. Knight.....	307 00
Anna L. Adams.....	306 00
Ada A. Skinner.....	306 00
Mary F. Aylward.....	306 00
Mrs. J. A. Whiting.....	672 00
Mrs. L. Pierce.....	132 00
Sarah F. Burns.....	306 00
Alice B. Chapin.....	342 00
Helen S. Eames.....	672 00
Mary F. Devine.....	306 00
Annie E. Sheldon.....	294 00
S. Eldora Sheldon.....	306 00
Mrs. M. T. Cole.....	114 00
Orianna Cheney.....	294 00
Sarah C. Belcher.....	330 00
Minnie L. Mann.....	366 00
Anna E. Gates.....	132 00
Kate Chapin.....	306 00
Eva L. Chapman.....	81 60
Mary J. Kelley.....	306 00
Carrie V. Saddler.....	318 00
Minnie E. Jones.....	228 00
Carrie L. Harris.....	366 00
Eva R. Draper.....	438 00
Delia E. Gleason.....	342 00
Maggie F. Madden.....	252 00
Kate E. Martin.....	366 00
Eva E. Norcross.....	396 00
Ellen A. Moriarty.....	306 00
Mary E. Cochrane.....	306 00

Kate A. Wallace.....	306 00
Mary J. Kelly.....	306 00
Julia M. Barry.....	276 00
Mrs. A. E. Tarr.....	132 00
Julia E. Connolly.....	306 00
A. Augusta Cay.....	306 00
Lucy M. Wilber.....	175 00
Clara M. Howard.....	600 00
S. W. Hale.....	1670 00
Susan R. Broderick.....	204 00
Flora M. Knowlton.....	204 00
Emelie T. Hart.....	204 00
Jennie M. Russell.....	204 00
Anna M. Bancroft.....	325 00
Lilla B. Godfrey.....	87 50
Minnie I. Folger.....	182 00
Lilla A. Cook.....	102 00
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	\$15,952 10
Less appropriation.....	547 90
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	\$16,500 00

### FUEL FOR SCHOOLS.

Appropriation \$1000.

Barney & Son, wood.....	\$177 75
E. A. & L. A. Cook, coal.....	12 28
Field & Crosby, coal.....	527 50
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	\$717 53
Less appropriation.....	\$282 47
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	\$1000 00



## CARE OF SHOOOL HOUSES.

Appropriation \$1000.00.

Ira Wight.....	155 50
Eva E. Norcross.....	18 00
Eva R. Draper.....	24 00
Alfred Paige.....	75 75
Kate Chapin.....	6 00
Anna E. Gates.....	6 00
Minnie L. Mann.....	30 00
Mary Milan.....	54 00
Orianna Cheney.....	19 50
Mary F. Devine.....	6 00
Kate A. Wallace .....	18 00
Helen S. Eames.....	63 00
Mr. Madden.....	54 00
Ada A. Skinner.....	6 00
Mary J. Kelly, High street.....	18 00
Mrs. E. A. Tarr.....	12 00
Frank R. Clafin.....	36 00
A. Augusta Cay.....	18 00
S. W. Hale.....	100 00
Susan Broderick.....	12 00
Emilie T. Hart.....	12 00
Julia E. Connolley.....	12 00
Flora M. Knowlton.....	12 00
Carrie L. Harris.....	12 00
Willie Cochrane.....	66 66
Frank E. Morrell.....	72 00
William Kelly.....	37 25

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 \$955 66

Less appropriation....., \$44 34

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 \$1000 00

# SCHOOL INCIDENTALS, INCLUDING SERVICES OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Appropriation, \$2250.00.

John W. Simonds, services.....	\$1500 03
"    paid incidentals for schools.....	339 76
"    "    for rent of office.....	35 00
"    "    R. C. Eldridge.....	5 78
"    "    exchange of books.....	300 00
"    "    delivering books.....	57 91
"    "    desk books.....	104 97
"    "    cleaning school houses.....	186 79
"    "    school books.....	417 28
"    "    N. W. Tukesbury.....	150 25
"    "    A. C. Stocking.....	180 00
Parkhurst & Crockett, use of well.....	10 00
John Gleason, use of well.....	10 00
Charles E. Whitney, services on School Committee....	30 00
Richmond Stone, use of well.....	5 00
J. C. Coffey, cleaning privies.....	5 00
E. D. Lothrop, supplies.....	2 15
Milford Gas Co., gas.....	27 99
James T. Canavan, services.....	20 00
J. W. Harris, supplies.....	237 66
Cook & Sons, printing.....	60 50
D. B. Jenks, supplies.....	95 42
A. S. Tuttle, supplies.....	20 10
Everett Cheney, supplies.....	3 65
Ira Wight, labor etc.....	7 90
Bartlett & Ellis, supplies.....	34 89
David Ahern, use of well.....	10 00
C. W. Wilcox, repairing clocks.....	9 25
R. C. Eldredge, repairing 16 clocks.....	18 50
G. W. Stacy, furnishing books for indigent parents	59 29
"    supplies for schools.....	81 72
"    200 copies of school reports.....	10 80
"    printing for schools.....	49 40

Timothy Wallace, supply of water.....	5 00
G. E. Stacy, sundries, bill paid.....	37 33
“ “ services as Sec’y and Committee on re- pairs to March 1.....	100 00
George O. Hatch, use of well.....	5 00
Sidney W. Pierce, patching and cleaning chimney.....	2 00
Henry L. Patrick, 1 coal hod.....	87
C. J. Thompson, teaching evening school.....	200 00
H. E. Morgan, supplies.....	4 80
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	\$4,471 99

Exceeded appropriation..... \$2221 99

#### TOWN INCIDENTALS.

Leander Holbrook, for insurance.....	\$282 95
Bartlett & Ellis, supplies.....	72 31
M. L. Tarbell, supplies.....	95
O. D. Holmes, serving town warrants, etc.....	28 00
John O’Bryan, night watch.....	60 00
George B. Blake, services.....	20 00
“ rubber bands.....	60
David Nelson, services as Overseer of Poor.....	90 00
E. C. Claflin, paid Thurber and Hunt in Blake case....	3 00
“ “ Officers in Town House.....	2 00
“ Error in order 364 last year.....	10 00
Appleton Bragg, vote of town on bill of 1871.....	19 00
“ “ “ interest...	14 76
T. G. Kent, for services, <i>vs.</i> Fay and others.....	400 00
“ “ 1878.....	17 00
“ “ on Cemetery Committee.....	50 00
“ making papers for water works.....	10 00
George Chapin, trimming trees.....	5 25
Field & Crosby, coal and lumber.....	82 40
State Reform School.....	325 00
E. D. Lothrop, repairing street lamps.....	2 50
J. B. Bancroft, expenses to New Haven.....	11 00



Blake Crusher Co., for stone crusher.....	303 02
G. W. Stacy, printing town report.....	133 40
“ “ book for collector.....	3 50
“ “ and stationery.....	15 80
A. Thwing, services as Assessor, 1877.....	16 80
“ for A. Ballou, work on Town History.....	57 73
“ repairing clock.....	3 00
John Usher, use of water tubs.....	5 00
Cook & Sons, printing in 1877.....	85 00
“ “ .....	35 00
“ “ Board of Health.....	40 00
E. A. & L. A. Cook, coal.....	59 88
Henry Williard, repairing bell.....	8 44
H. E. Morgan, 2 doz. cans milk for lockup.....	6 00
Adin Ballou, labor and cash paid on Town History ...	110 06
John S. Mead, services as Selectman and expenses....	325 00
J. B. Bancroft, “ “ .....	275 00
I. N. Davis, “ “ .....	250 00
J. C. Coffey, posting bills.....	1 50
W. F. Reynolds, case for Town House.....	7 25
James R. Davis, services on V. G. cemetery case.....	20 00
Adin Ball, labor.....	22 63
J. H. Barker, services as Assessor.....	207 90
A. J. Sumner, “ “ and expenses.....	239 10
J. H. Wood, collecting taxes.....	500 00
S. A. Eastman, 34 cans milk for lockup.....	6 80
“ oil, chimneys, etc., for street lamps...	1 62
C. J. Thompson, surveying.....	24 50
L. Cheney, posting bills.....	1 75
P. McGerry, services as Assessor.....	172 80
D. Healy, killing and burying three dogs.....	4 50
J. F. Burke, “ one dog.....	1 50
J. W. Harris, stove and pipe for Town House.....	12 38
J. D. Hunt, collecting \$72,650.87 taxes for 1877 (3-4).’	544 87
A. C. Fay, abatement of taxes.....	16 15
Catherine Fitzgerald, abatement of taxes.....	11 31

Leonard Fairbanks, removing remains.....	143 50
Lewis Fales, paid for book, postage, etc.....	11 83
"    recording births, marriages and deaths...	147 20
"    services as Town Clerk.....	85 00
Stephen Albee & Co., setting glass.....	1 30
Dexter Claflin, use of water.....	5 00
Milford Gas Light Co., globes and lamp posts.....	123 63
"    "    setting lamp post.....	5 00
"    "    1 doz. cocks.....	4 00
Thomas Coyne, services.....	10 00
Howard & Pierce, oil and chimneys for street lamps...	2 97
Charles Endicott, 1-4 liquor licenses.....	1 25
Elias Whitney, services as Overseer of Poor.....	325 00
"    "    Sealer of Weights and Measures	25 00
"    care of Jones Brothers' property.....	25 00
M. J. Dyott, globes and domes.....	45 75
Eldridge & Beatty, repairing lanterns, etc.....	6 50
C. A. Sumner, printing.....	10 00
H. C. Scott, supplies for street lamps.....	6 05
"    "    lockup.....	25 74
"    "    Town House.....	9 76
Delano Patrick, money refunded on L. Patrick's tax...	1 47
E. C. Claflin, services as Treasurer.....	250 00
"    traveling expenses, express and postage.	18 58
B. H. Montague, services as Janitor.....	245 83
"    "    at lockup.....	100 00
"    cash paid for supplies.....	36 85
M. J. Burke, returning 91 deaths.....	22 75
G. G. Parker, insurance.....	120 00
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	\$6,850 87
Appropriated.....	\$6,500 00
Exceeded appropriation.....	350 87
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	\$6,850 87



## INTEREST ON TOWN DEBT.

Milford Savings Bank for interest.....	\$1468 75
“ National “ “ “ .....	104 25
Hide and Leather Bank for “ .....	6850 00
Home National Bank for “ .....	104 64
Chas. Endicott, Treas., for “ .....	2100 00
Worcester County Institute for Savings for interest....	1050 00
G. W. Kimball, for interest.....	162 50
Elisha Chapin, “ “ .....	25 00
Sarah F. Pierce “ “ .....	36 00
A. J. Sumner “ “ .....	40 71
John S. Chapin “ “ .....	50 00
Silas A. Hill “ “ .....	25 00
Wm. F. Draper, 2 years interest on Sarah Whipple note	12 00
Milford Fire Insurance Co. interest.....	120 00
Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery.....	21 00
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	\$12,169 85
Appropriated.....	\$12,000 00
Exceeded appropriation.....	169 85
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	\$12,169 85

## REPAIRS OF SCHOOL HOUSES.

Appropriation \$750.00.

Elbridge Hayward.....	2 75
Galøn Davis.....	2 48
James Bergin.....	71 37
Field & Crosby.....	63 37
John Farquhar & Sons.....	42 05
Sidney W. Pierce.....	43 41
E. M. Noyes, painting.....	211 14
Eldridge & Beatty, painting .....	471 68

T. E. Morse, painting.....	105 92
Stephen Albee & Co., painting.....	139 25
Adin Ball, labor.....	4 75
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	\$1,158 17
Exceeded appropriation.....	\$408 17
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	\$1158 17

#### PAYMENT OF TOWN DEBT.

Paid two Park notes.....	\$5000 00
Milford Fire Insurance Company.....	500 00
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	\$5,500 00
Appropriation .....	\$2,000 00
Exceeded " .....	3,500 00
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	\$5,500 00

#### MONEY BORROWED AND PAID.

Home National Bank.....	\$9,000
Milford National Bank.....	8,000
A. J. Sumner.....	3,000
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	\$20,000 00

There became due this year, for which we drew orders, \$40,000 in bonds, which were paid by issuing the same amount of bonds, which were taken by the Milford Savings Bank for 15 years, at a rate of 5 per cent. payable semi-annually.....\$40,000 00

#### SUPPORT OF POOR.

Elias Whitney.....	\$11,539 23
Appropriation.....	\$10,000 00
Exceeded " .....	1,539 23
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	\$11,539 23

## REPAIRS OF BUILDINGS ON TOWN FARM.

Elias Whitney.....	\$300 00
Appropriation, \$300.	

## TOWN LIBRARY.

Paid J. Allen Rice half of dog tax.....	\$252 20
“ “ “ “ .....	700 00
“ E. D. Bancroft .....	300 00
Appropriation, .....	\$1,000 00
Half dog tax, .....	252 20
	<u>\$1,252 20</u>

## PAY OF MEMBERS OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid H. C. Skinner, clerk.....	\$3,600 00
Appropriation.....	\$3,600 00

## REPAIRS OF ENGINE HOUSES AND RESERVOIRS.

Paid H. C. Skinner, clerk.....	\$225 00
Appropriation.....	\$300 00
Less appropriation.....	75 00

## INCIDENTALS OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid J. M. Wood.....	\$200 00
H. C. Skinner.....	900 00
Appropriation.....	\$1,200 00
Less appropriation.....	100 00

## NEW HOSE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid H. C. Skinner, clerk.....	\$1000 00
Appropriation....	\$1000 00

## GAS AND STREET LAMPS AND LIGHTING.

Paid Milford Gas Light Company, street lamps.....	\$1593 95
“ “ “ Town House.....	348 46
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	\$1,942 41
Less appropriation.....	57 59
	<hr/>
Appropriation .....	\$2,000 00

## DECORATION DAY.

B. H. Montague.....	\$132 00
Appropriation, \$132.00.	

J. D. HUNT, SPECIAL VOTE OF TOWN FOR COLLECT-  
ING TAXES.

J. D. Hunt.....	\$50 00
Appropriation, \$50.00.	

## SETTING CURBSTONES ON PEARL STREET.

Paid Amial Littlefield, labor.....	\$26 37
Elizabeth Sherman, curbstone.....	507 36
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	\$533 73
Paid Highway Department, labor and teams.....	419 33
	<hr/>
	\$953 06
By appropriation.....	\$275 00
assessment on abutters.....	462 76
Exceeded appropriation.....	215 30
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	\$953 06

## STATE ANNUAL TAX.

Paid Chas. Endicott, Treasurer.....	\$2860 00
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# DRAIN ON CORNER OF SOUTH MAIN AND FRUIT STREETS.

S. W. Pierce .....	\$ 5 67
Bartlett & Ellis, pipe .....	64 00
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	\$69 67
Highway paid labor .....	21 88
Unexpended appropriation .....	8 45
	<hr/>
	\$100 00

Appropriation \$100.00.

## SEWER FROM GROVE TO CENTRAL STREETS.

Bartlett & Ellis, pipe .....	\$686 19
Field & Crosby, brick, etc .....	10 70
E. A. & L. A. Cook, cement .....	9 50
S. W. Pierce, labor .....	22 85
L. Grow, blacksmithing .....	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$735 24
Highways credit by labor, etc .....	194 50
	<hr/>
	\$929 74
By appropriation .....	\$300 00
Assessment on A. Adams .....	25 00
Mrs. Hannon, unpaid .....	25 00
M. Gibbs .....	25 00
A. Wheeler .....	25 00
F. Goucher .....	15 00
W. B. Hale .....	10 00
A. C. Mayhew, donation ..	25 00
A. Claffin, donation .....	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$550 00
Exceeded appropriation .....	\$379 74
	<hr/>
	\$929 74



## WATER WORKS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Bartlett & Ellis, pipe and supplies.....	\$925 09
William Fitzgerald, blacksmithing.....	8 11
Hopedale Machine Co., labor.....	43 11
A. Thwing, surveying.....	6 51
I. N. Davis, cement, freight, etc.....	21 14
Galon Davis, labor.....	16 25
E. C. Claflin, paid laborers.....	171 00
L. Grow, blacksmithing.....	8 50
J. J. Nutter, labor.....	22 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,221 71
Highway department paid labor, plank, etc.....	257 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,478 71

## NATIONAL BANK TAX.

Charles Endicott, Treasurer.....	\$2733 68
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## POOR AND INDIGENT SOLDIERS.

Amount expended.....	\$1914 09
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## STATE AID.

Paid Ethan C. Claflin,.....	\$3934 00
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## COURT, GRANT AND PURCHASE STREETS.

Highway Department, paid on Court.....	\$ 75 00
“ “ “ Grant.....	154 62
Less appropriation.....	70 38
	<hr/>
	\$300 00
By appropriation.....	\$300 00

## ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Five hundred shares in Milford & Woonsocket R. R....	\$50000	00
Seventy-five shares in Hopkinton R. R.....	7500	00
Bonds of Hopkinton Railroad.....	7500	00
J. D. Hunt for taxes of 1875.....	120	88
“ “ “ “ 1876.....	364	06
“ “ “ “ 1877.....	4276	11
Joseph H. Wood for taxes of 1878 .....	3966	53
Land and gravel pit on Greene street.....	150	00
B. D. Godfrey, for labor and teams.....	7	00
Mr. Esterbrooks, concrete walk.....	21	93
F. O. Mason, “ “ .....	52	26
Mary F. Griffin “ “ .....	16	76
Hayward and Fales “ “ .....	16	00
S. W. Hayward, “ “ .....	47	69
Mrs. Hannon, for assessment and labor.....	33	00
A. A. Coburn, “ sidewalk.....	38	31
Zimri Thurber, “ “ .....	16	28
Itheal Farnum, “ “ .....	16	33
D. B. Jenks, “ “ .....	33	49
Luther P. Jones, “ “ .....	20	56
O. Underwood, “ “ .....	58	17
Nelson Parkhurst, “ “ .....	33	38
R. E. Foster, “ “ .....	20	41
R. C. Hill, “ “ .....	24	37
Joseph Williams, “ “ .....	24	90
Mrs. Leland, “ “ .....	37	20
P. B. Wakefield, “ “ .....	7	02
Chas. Williams, “ “ .....	16	21
Due from the State for poor and indigent soldiers, ....	1914	09
“ “ “ “ State Aid.....	3925	50
Cash in hand of Treasurer Feb. 12, 1879 .....	6102	21
	<hr/>	
	\$86,360	65

## TOWN DEBT.

Milford Savings Bank notes.....	\$25000 00
“ “ town bonds.....	40000 00
National Hide & Leather Bank, railroad bonds.....	50000 00
Boston Five Cent Savings Bank, town bonds.....	30000 00
Worcester County Institution for Savings.....	15000 00
Park notes.....	5000 00
Elisha Chapin, note.....	500 00
John S. Chapin, “ .....	1000 00
Milford Fire Insurance Co.....	1500 00
Sarah F. Pierce, note.....	600 00
State Treasurer's note.....	30000 00
Silas A. Hill.....	500 00
Trustees of Hopedale cemetery.....	100 00
“ “ Vernon Grove Cemetery.....	350 00
	<hr/>
	\$199,550 00

These amounts were left by the following named persons  
for the care of their burial lots :

Sarah M. Whipple.....	100 00
Mrs. Theron Holbrook.....	100 00
Mrs. Obadiah Albee.....	100 00
W. B. Dyer.....	150 00

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 APPROPRIATIONS.

For Town Incidentals.....	\$6500 00
Highways .....	8000 00
Teaching schools .....	16500 00
Care of school houses.....	1000 00
Fuel for schools.....	1000 00
School incidentals, including Superintendent.....	2250 00
Repairs of school houses.....	750 00
Interest on town debt.....	12000 00
Gas and street lamps.....	2000 00



Pay of members of Fire Department.....	3600 00
Repair of Engine Houses and Reservoirs.....	300 00
Incidentals for Fire Department.....	1200 00
Support of poor.....	10000 00
Town Library.....	1000 00
Payment on town debt.....	2000 00
Discount on taxes.....	3000 00
Decoration Day.....	132 00
Setting curbstones on Pearl street.....	275 00
Building Court, Grant and Purchase street.....	300 00
Sewer from Grove to Central st.....	300 00
“ on South-Main and Fruit st.....	100 00
J. D. Hunt extra on collecting taxes.....	50 00
Purchase of new hose for Fire Department.....	1000 00
Repairs on buildings at town farm.....	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$73,557 00

#### RECAPITULATION.

Repair of Highways, Bridges and Cash Paid for Labor on Water Works, sewers, curbing of Pearl street and labor on Court and Grant streets.....	\$9183 28
Paid for Teaching Schools.....	15952 10
Fuel for “ .....	717 53
Care of “ .....	955 66
School Incidentals.....	4471 99
Town “ .....	6850 87
Interest on Town Debt.....	12169 85
Repairs of School Houses.....	1158 17
Payment of Town Debt.....	5500 00
Money Borrowed and Paid.....	20000 00
Town Bonds issued.....	40000 00
Support of Poor.....	11539 23
Repairing buildings at Town Farm.....	300 00
Town Library.....	1252 20
Payment Members of Fire Department,.....	3600 00

Repairs of Engine Houses and Reservoirs.....	225 00
Incidentals of Fire Department.....	1100 00
New Hose.....	1000 00
Gas and Lighting.....	1942 41
Decoration Day.....	132 00
J. D. Hunt special vote of town.....	50 00
Setting Curb Stones on Pearl Street.....	533 73
Drain on corner of So. Main and Fruit Sts....	69 67
Sewer on Bow Street.....	735 24
State Annual Tax.....	2860 00
National Bank Tax.....	2733 68
Water Works for Fire Department.....	1221 71
Poor and Indigent Soldiers.....	1914 09
State Aid.....	3934 00
	<hr/>
	\$152,102 41

All of which is respectfully submitted to the inhabitants of  
Milford, February 13, 1879.

JOHN S. MEAD,  
J. B. BANCROFT,  
I. N. DAVIS,  
*Selectmen of Milford.*



## REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

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The Overseers of the Poor respectfully submit the following report for the year ending February 1, 1879 :

Expense of Farm, \$4,597.99.

H. C. Scott, 701 pounds sugar.....	\$ 155 66
57½ gallons oil.....	18 56
51 pounds cheese.....	6 97
132 gallons molasses.....	58 38
Tobacco and snuff.....	79 21
80 pounds coffee.....	10 65
104 pounds rice.....	9 34
165 pounds salt fish, 1 barrel herring....	15 38
167 pounds tea.....	75 43
175 pounds potash.....	15 00
Salt .....	11 43
3 gross matches.....	6 60
Baskets, tubs, mops, pails, saw-horse, wash-boards, slate pencils.....	11 87
Rope, twine, brooms, stove polish, fly pa- per, lamp chimney, tacks.....	8 56
129 empty barrels.....	17 35
Medicine.....	4 52
Hoes, scythes and rakes.....	12 62
Yeast powder, pepper, cream tartar, sala- ratus, ginger, cloves, lemons, raisins, soda, nutmegs.....	19 80
Sweet potatoes and apples.....	3 67
Seed peas.....	1 20

Paris Green mixture.....	7 00
Soap.....	11 80
Beans.....	4 12
Hay seed.....	13 68
Scraps and hen feed.....	1 29
24 barrels flour.....	201 00
4 bags meal.....	5 22
	<hr/>
	\$786 73
T C Eastman, grain, 449 bags meal, 438 lbs. shorts...	578 14
E J Prentice, grain, 6580 lbs. shorts.....	81 04
6 barrels flour.....	51 25
	<hr/>
	\$132 29
John Madden, 1 barrel flour.....	7 00
David Nelson, 8000 lbs. shorts.....	74 00
	<hr/>
	\$81 00
Fred Woods, fish.....	36 50
J I Whitney, fish.....	15 45
Congden & Chapman, fish.....	1 68
	<hr/>
	\$53 63
Thompson Brothers, boots and shoes.....	112 20
H E Morgan, medicine.....	23 89
Burials by M J Burke.....	21 00
Burials by Leonard Fairbanks.....	25 00
Dr Eaton, services.....	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$184 09
Labor in-doors and on Farm.....	333 56
A A Wescott, grind-stone.....	3 86
D B Rockwood, repairs.....	41 33
Bartlett & Ellis, hardware and tools.....	106 74
Labor of persons who needed aid, April 1, 1878.....	108 24
J E Eldridge, oxen.....	136 35

L W Adams, oxen.....	85 00
Cash paid David Nelson.....	3 07
E A & L A Cook, fertilizer.....	145 00
Ira Ide, blacksmithing.....	27 79
H N Madden, driving cattle.....	6 00
B E Harris, clothing.....	214 05
A S Tuttle, furniture.....	12 46
J S Mead, et al, meat.....	296 39
J McCuen, ice.....	7 00
Repairs over appropriation.....	59 22
S Mathewson, bread.....	14 75
Field & Crosby, coal.....	121 61
S Harrington, salary.....	600 00
Bills paid by S Harrington.....	132 54
A A Coburn, dry goods.....	112 63
J O'Leary, dry goods.....	2 76
Six cows.....	211 76
	<hr/>
	\$4597 99

#### RECEIPTS FROM THE FARM.

Produce sold H C Scott.....	186 15
Oxen .....	155 61
Bills paid by Harrington.....	132 54
Produce sold to help.....	44 00
D Wedge, pension.....	13 00
Quinlan, pension.....	74 00
S Mathewson.....	8 45
John S Mead.....	423 35
Board of Mrs Jones.....	156 00
	<hr/>
	\$1193,10

One thousand forty-six dollars and seventy-six cents has been collected ; \$156.34 now due to go to new account. Labor and tools, repairs over appropriation, painting, etc., amounting to \$180.61, should be deducted from the cost of Farm as not belonging properly to the same, amounting to \$180.61, which would leave the net expense of Farm at \$3.324.28.

*Insane.*

Henry Cain.....	\$197 33
Caroline Coughlen.....	189 00
Maynard Rawson.....	200 91
Ann Lahey.....	185 58
Dennis Pyne.....	222 79
Abbott L. Perry.....	131 62
John O'Harra.....	194 02
Elizabeth Eames.....	128 03
	<hr/>
	\$1449,28

## Persons receiving aid away from Farm in Milford.

Mrs Thomas Rabbit.....	186 91
Mrs Harry Sidley.....	26 49
Mrs Thomas Finton.....	49 21
Patrick McDermott.....	51 45
John Knight.....	11 00
Frank Finn.....	68 69
Mrs Dennis O'Connor.....	43 07
James Cross.....	34 85
Mrs Michael Smith.....	53 05
Andrew Gilroy.....	20 50
Albert A Sweet.....	3 75
Mrs Charles Hoyt.....	35 85
Mrs B O'Connor.....	25 27
Patick Clynes.....	187 30
Thomas Hogan.....	20 95
Mrs Catherine Riley.....	32 25
Michael Coleman.....	40 19
Edward McKanna.....	78 75
Martin O'Connell.....	33 18
Daniel Shea.....	89 97
David Quinlan.....	34 10
Thomas Holland.....	20 88



Michael Hageney.....	73 94
Mrs Michael Casey.....	22 18
Mrs Michael Lyons.....	82 53
Mrs Cornelius Sullivan.....	115 66
Patrick J Burns.....	48 10
Miss Mary O'Connor.....	42 14
John Clancy.....	58 78
Patrick Curry.....	77 21
Patrick Clunan.....	38 70
Howard Holland.....	18 26
John Ryan.....	7 10
Patrick Condra.....	22 20
Martin Maley.....	32 99
William Breen.....	8 65
J Pyne.....	11 23
John Welch.....	34 75
Peter McCabe.....	7 00
Mrs Dennis Pyne.....	23 80
Mrs Bridget Moore.....	15 96
Mrs Warren Ellis.....	7 50
Batholomew Conway.....	18 50
T J Harper.....	9 32
Mrs Bridget Caine.....	3 25
Mrs M A Ahern.....	28 00
Dennis Griffin.....	56 50
Edward Howley.....	25 76
Mary Cox.....	52 00
Thomas Craven.....	31 70
Bernard Kelley.....	55 81
H W Thayer.....	2 00
Mrs Chas Forbush.....	43 82
Stephen Burke.....	135 11
Mrs Julia Carey.....	19 86
Patrick McGrath.....	6 00
Patrick Flynn, 2d....	15 98
John Burke.....	15 90

John Rowe, children.....	96 50
Mrs Emma Sturtevant.....	13 25
O J Allen.....	25 00
Joseph Deig.....	25 50
Elijah F. Hildreth.....	16 75
Mrs Patrick Conniff.....	74 49
Patrick McQuade.....	43 22
Mrs Mary O'Donnell.....	34 89
Miss Nora Crahen.....	197 00
Ranney Daneulx.....	55 52
William Coffee.....	97 07
Mrs John Hogan.....	55 27
Mrs Michael Connors.....	41 95
Martin Ward.....	16 08
Michael Kelly.....	4 00
Mrs Rhoda Allen.....	218 94
Edward Holohan.....	5 63
James Hogan.....	1 00
Mrs Patrick Powers.....	55 16
Albert Armstrong.....	6 63
John Lynch.....	37 44
Patrick Butler.....	7 23
John Wilson.....	9 25
Frank Surgerson.....	8 00
Amasa Haynes.....	3 26
Mrs John Mahony.....	6 75
Michael Fitzgerald.....	3 85
Michael Lavin.....	3 25
Patrick Sullivan.....	10 00
Mrs Hugh Glennon.....	76 68
Martin Donohue.....	5 75
Anthony Hannon.....	9 00
Peter Dunn.....	27 20
Moses Hoyet.....	142 48
Mrs Mary White.....	1 25
John Cook.....	28 90

Mrs Winnifred Casey .....	2 60
Wm Murphy .....	5 57
Owen O'Harra .....	5 11
Martin Keenan .....	2 00
John Fahey .....	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,904.18

*Belonging in Milford, Living in Other Towns.*

Henry O. Anthony, Upton .....	\$11 00
John W. Southland " .....	5 00
Patrick Roach, Uxbridge .....	5 79
Levi L. Smith, Mendon .....	4 00
Diadana Howard, Bellingham .....	6 00
Patrick Flynn, Worcester .....	46 60
Catherine Hynes, " .....	7 00
Patrick Boyle, " .....	12 75
John J Ford, " .....	4 00
Thomas Moran, " .....	28 90
Josephine M Greene, Worcester .....	2 00
Lydia Dunn, Northbridge .....	21 60
Wm J Stewart, Marlboro .....	49 40
Celia Osborn, New Bedford .....	29 70
Laurence O'Hara, Salem .....	71 35
Anna Gayten, Medway .....	5 00
Nellie McDonough, Boston .....	83 90
Mrs Kenny " .....	16 75
Eliza Curry, " .....	5 37
Milton H Morse, " .....	3 45
Mary Delany " .....	10 50
Margaret Quinn, Lowell .....	63 30
Wm. Leland, Plymouth .....	91 75
Julius L Johnson, Wrentham .....	88 43
Daniel Dugan, Waltham .....	71 00
Mrs Geo Holland, Somerville .....	22 53

Rob't D S Holbrook, Fall River.....	8 00
Moses Boover, Haverhill.....	5 00
Benj'n D " ".....	19 45
Eli D " ".....	23 20
Abraham Quintell ".....	8 20
Mrs Mary Nealy Blackstone.....	199 75
George Horner, Hopkinton.....	6 00
Mrs Dan'l Slattery ".....	13 50
Mrs Mary Shechee, Worcester.....	18 00
Augustus Daniels, Hopkinton.....	48 00
James A'Hern, ".....	25 94
Annie Buckley, ".....	15 25
Julia Welch, Taunton.....	28 65
Fleming Adams, Wrentham.....	70 50
Mrs Patrick Sullivan, Fall River.....	154 64
John Haggerty, Medway.....	97 68
Mrs Michael Holland, Cambridge.....	16 62
	<hr/>
	\$1530,45

*Paupers belonging in other Towns, living in Milford.*

Lewis G Fales, Medway.....	\$19 00
Moses S Force ".....	5 00
John P Hughes, Holliston.....	69 00
Jane Reeves ".....	6 00
Emerson Morse, ".....	12 00
Caroline Hayford, Hanson.....	43 10
M J Bowker, Hopkinton.....	82 12
Benjamin Fairbanks, Hopkinton.....	25 70
Michael Murphy, ".....	55 50
John E Morse, ".....	2 00
George W Brown, Uxbridge.....	45 79
*Joshua O Langley ".....	104 15
James McAvoy, Taunton.....	31 18
Mrs Wm Marr, Shrewsbury.....	235 73
James O Gould, Gloucester.....	28 21



Richard Carey, Boston.....	28 21
Patrick Jones, ".....	20 50
Isaac Cox, Stoughton.....	29 65
Patrick McGahey, Blackstone.....	25 50
Mrs Hiram Adams ".....	21 00
Harrison Brigham, Westboro.....	43 75
Adolphus Porter, Worcester.....	6 50
Mrs James Mealey, Boston.....	6 50
Alonzo Fisk, Upton.....	10 00

\*Settlement denied.

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\$964,74

*State Paupers.*

Susan Sweeney,	Joshua Downey,
Mrs Daniel Gilmore,	Mrs James O'Brien,
Michael Finn,	Michael Murphy,
John Petted,	Mrs John Shockrowe,
Crohen Connell,	Wm Myett,
John A Cummings,	Leonidas Tourtellotte,
Patrick Milan,	Wm Stewart,
James Small,	Sarah McGrath,
Edward Sirerack,	Dennis Haynes,
Wm Fahey,	A J Fisher,
Children of Wm B Dodd,	Mrs Michael Shea,
Mrs Michael Harty,	Mrs Terrence Russell,
Mrs Mary O'Connell,	George Sheehan,
Lucian Sheppard,	Edward Dennanan,
Hannah Cooney,	Susan Sweeney,
Frank Boston,	

Amount..... \$1096,76

Two hundred and sixty-four tramps..... 25,00

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*Due from other Towns and Cities.*

Medway.....	\$19 00
Holliston.....	56 66
Uxbridge.....	110 05
Northbridge.....	6 00
Boston.....	40 83
Upton.....	17 12

Gloucester.....	37 36
Worcester.....	6 00
Hopkinton.....	38 80
Due from S. S. and L. P. Jones.....	156 34
Charged to State.....	390 71
	<hr/>
	\$853 51

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*Receipts*

Cash of John Riley.....	\$1 88
Overseers Poor Upton.....	34 15
"    "    Medway.....	10 00
"    "    Shrewsbury.....	235 73
City Taunton.....	31 18
Town Hanson.....	43 10
Ira Ide.....	90
Anthony Hannon.....	9 00
Gloucester.....	37 36
Boston.....	13 38
Stoughton.....	29 65
Uxbridge.....	39 89
Holliston.....	65 75
D. Nelson, for oxen.....	155 61
D. Wedge, pension.....	13 00
Ed. Quinlan, pension and State aid.....	62 00
S. Mathewson.....	8 45
Westboro.....	43 75
Blackstone.....	46 50
Hopkinton.....	157 58
H. C. Scott.....	186 15
John S. Mead.....	423 35
S. Harrington.....	144 54
State.....	121 85
S. S. and L. P. Jones.....	372 41
Town Treasurer.....	11539 23
	<hr/>
	\$13,826 39

*Incidentals.*

Cash paid for Cutting Wood :

M. Naulty .....	\$39 00
Patrick Kearnes .....	11 05
Patrick Flynn.....	16 88
Samuel Mather.....	9 38
Cutting poles and timber.....	12 59
Carting Wood.....	54 00
Fales and Davis.....	50 00
G. W. Stacy, books, etc.....	19 45
P. O. Stamps.....	6 00
A. Putnam, et. al. labor on Jones land.....	47 00
	<hr/>
	\$265 35

## RECAPITULATION.

Insane.....	\$1449 28
State .....	1096 77
Other towns.....	964 74
Paupers belonging to Milford living in other towns....	1535 45
“ “ “ “ in town.....	3899 18
Farm .....	4559 39
Incidentals, cutting and carting wood.....	142 90
“ Fales & Davis.....	50 00
Books, stationery, etc.....	25 45
Labor on Jones land and repairs.....	47 00
264 tramps.....	25 00
	<hr/>
	\$13,795 15

We had on hand, Feb. 1, 1879 wood and boots val-  
ued at.....

265 00



## REPAIRS.

The three hundred dollars appropriated for repairs was expended on the barn, sheds and hog house. The barn and shed were new shingled and the hog house raised up and new silled and partly new boarded with a new plank floor; we also finished two new rooms in the attic of almshouse.

There was on hand Feb. 1, 1879, personal property to the amount of \$4038,48. Although the valuation is about \$230,42 less than last year, we have more of everything than we had last year, but have appraised it lower.

We have one horse and thirteen cows. The cows (13) are valued less than the eleven of last year by \$85.00. One yoke of oxen, thirteen hogs, and more hay than was ever in the barn at this time of year before. Bed and bedding are in the best of repair. The Superintendent is paid to March 1, 1879 (salary \$600). The Town Doctor also paid to March 1, 1879, salary \$100.

Whole number admitted the past year, 63; present number, 40; average number, about 36; average weekly cost, \$1.70.

The sick State poor are paid to January 1st, 1879, and bills sent to Board of State Charities.

We have a bill against Uxbridge of \$110,05, which they refuse to pay.

On the first of April, 1878, we put men who were aided at work on the Town Farm, and expended \$130,29. Had we aided them at home, the town would have been better off. The tools were either spoiled or carried away. All the work could have been done with the oxen for what the tools cost.

The suit against S. S. and L. P. Jones, was settled by mutual consent; the overseers being secured by lease of real estate until all bills are paid. We have received this year in standing wood and rent to the amount of \$372,41.

There was due the town Feb. 1st, 1878, \$372,75. Board this year, \$156 00. Leaving a balance due Feb. 1, 1879, \$156,34.



There was charged to the State Feb. 1, 1878.....	\$763 68
From 1878 to Feb. 1, 1879.....	390 71
	<hr/>
	\$1154 39
Received the past year.....	121 85
	<hr/>
Balance now due from the State.....	\$1032 52

Owing to the interference of some Milford men, the above bills remain in the hands of the Visiting Agent of the Board of State Charities, unaudited. Had there been no interference, most of the above sum would have been in the hands of the Town Treasurer at this time.

Although the past year has been a hard one, we have been enabled to reduce the expenses from last year.

Amount drawn from treasury ending Feb. 1878,	\$13,364.86
“ “ “ “ “ 1879,	11,539.23

A reduction of.....	\$1725,63
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ELIAS WHITNEY,	} Overseers of the Poor of Milford.
JOHN MADDEN,	
DAVID NELSON,	

# REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS

## OF THE

# MILFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 8, 1879.

Cash on hand Feb. 16, 1878.....	\$ 37 41
Received of Ethan C. Claflin for pay of members..	3600 00
“ “ “ incidentals .....	1100 00
“ “ “ purchase of hose.	1000 00
“ Stephen Sibley for old hose.....	97 05
“ Worcester South-East Agricultural So-	
ciety .....	5 50
“ Ethan C. Claflin for repairs.....	225 00
“ L. B. Felton for rent of land.....	1 00
	<hr/>
Total amount of receipts.....	\$6065 96
Total amount of expenditures.....	\$5995 99
Cash on hand Feb. 8, 1879.....	69 97
	<hr/>
	\$6065 96

### EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid Barney & Son .....	\$ 6 50
Hopedale Furnace Company.....	3 50
J. M. Rose.....	2 50
Milford Gas Company.....	258 93
H. L. Patrick.....	5 60
Field & Crosby.....	72 78
Stevens & Morrin.....	6 15
A. Stevens.....	19 15

J. E. Batten.....	5 00
C. L. Witherell.....	150 00
W. H. Scammell.....	16 67
W. C. Gilman.....	1 25
John Goldsmith.....	12 00
A. Tyler.....	64 10
Board of Engineers.....	250 00
North Star Engine Co.....	720 00
Wide Awake Hose Co.....	307 50
A. Claflin Engine Co.....	235 00
Washington Engine Co.....	732 50
Milford Steam Fire Engine Co.....	185 00
Excelsior H. & L. Co.....	300 00
N. B. Fairbanks.....	202 90
A. S. Allen.....	26 80
J. T. Ryan.....	6 25
Henry Willard.....	296 36
Extinguisher Co.....	187 50
C. O. Woodbury.....	183 34
C. E. Moorhouse.....	44 75
J. W. Harris.....	3 00
M. W. Edwards.....	46 50
C. F. Walker.....	1 16
B. & A. Express Co.....	1 50
G. W. Stacy.....	1 45
A. Withington.....	98
C. T. Crosby.....	6 00
J. M. Woods.....	219 05
C. H. Hoyt.....	19 26
Chambers, Calder & Co.....	4 65
Bartlett & Ellis.....	50 01
Hopedale Stable Co.....	3 00
Ross, Turner & Co.....	450 00
American Hose Co.....	545 00
Allen Supply Co.....	55 35
M. L. Tarbell.....	2 60

H. C. Skinner.....	14 55
A. S. Tuttle.....	4 52
W. J. Shields.....	18 90
E. E. Cook.....	41 50
W. J. Blanchard.....	39 50
J. T. McGuire.....	1 50
J. D. Hunt.....	6 00
Eddy & Studley.....	90 00
P. & W. R. R.....	26
P. & W. Express.....	5 65
Hopedale Machine Co.....	3 16
T. E. Morse.....	6 28
E. A. & L. A. Cook.....	6 50
Merrill Hoyt.....	5 30
D. B. Jeuks.....	45
Geo. W. DeRochmont.....	28 50
H. W. Britton.....	11 88
Cash on hand.....	69 97
	<hr/>
	\$6065 96

There have been thirty alarms of fire from Feb. 16, 1878, to this date, from the following causes :

Out of town.....	2
Burning brush.....	1
In woods.....	6
In chimneys.....	2
In buildings.....	18
Rekindling .....	1
	<hr/>
	30

The present number of members in the Department, is one hundred and sixty-seven, divided as follows :

Engineers .....	7
Washington Engine Co. No. 1.....	44
North Star      “              “ 4 .....	47



Wide Awake Hose Co. No. 1.....	19
Milford Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 1.....	9
A. Claflin   “                   “                   No. 2.....	12
Excelsior H. & L. Co. No. 1.....	20
Extinguisher Co. No. 1.....	9
	<hr/>
	167

#### SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY.

Five Engine Houses and furniture for the same.

Two Hand Engines and Hose Carriages.

Two Steam Fire Engines and Hose Carriages.

One four-wheeled Hose Carriage and fixtures for the same.

One Babcock Fire Extinguisher.

One Hook & Ladder Carriage, with hooks and ladders for same.

Seventeen Reservoirs, located as follows: One near the Town House, on South Bow street; One near the junction of Main and Spruce streets; One at Lincoln Square; One on the Parish Common; One on the corner of Main and Fruit streets; One on West street near Samuel Walker's boot factory; One on Congress street; One on Exchange street; One on Central Street; One on Jefferson street; One at the junction of Pearl and School street; One on Walnut street near the School House; One on North Road near Joseph Hancock's; One at North Milford; One at Jonesville; One on the corner of West and Lee streets, and one on Grove, near Forest street.

#### CONDITION OF PROPERTY.

The engine houses are all in good repair. but there are several reservoirs that need repairing.

#### ENGINES AND CARRIAGES.

Washington Engine No. 1, Button & Son, builders, is located in No. 1 Engine House.

North Star Engine No. 4, Jeffers builder, is located in No. 4 Engine House.

Milford Steam Fire Engine No. 1, Cole Bros. builders, is located in the Steamer House.

Aaron Claflin Steam Fire Engine No. 2, Amoskeag build, is located in the Steamer House.

Wide Awake Hose Carriage No 1, is located in No. 1 Engine House.

Excelsior Hook & Ladder Carriage No. 1, is located in No. 2 Engine House.

Extinguisher No. 1, is located in the Engine House at Hopdale.

All the above apparatus is in good repair.

There are five thousand nine hundred and fifty feet of hose in the department. Five hundred feet of which is not reliable.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

That the pay of the members be the same as last year. The purchase of five hundred feet of new hose and the appropriation of the following sums for the department :

For the pay of members .....	\$3600 00
For incidental expenses .....	1200 00
For purchase of new hose .....	500 00
For repair of reservoirs and houses .....	200 00

J. M. WOODS,  
 MOSES DAY,  
 ASAPH WITHINGTON,  
 J. B. BANCROFT,  
 M. W. EDWARDS,  
 L. S. WAKEFIELD,  
 HENRY C. SKINNER.

*Board of Engineers.*

## TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1878-79.

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*Clerk,*

LEWIS FALES.

*Treasurer,*

ETHAN C. CLAFLIN.

*Selectmen and Highway Surveyors,*

JOHN S. MEAD,                      JOSEPH B. BANCROFT,  
ISAAC N. DAVIS.

*Assessors,*

ANDREW J. SUMNER,              JAMES H. BARKER,  
PATRICK MCGARRY.

*Overséers of the Poor,*

ELIAS WHITNEY, for three years.

JOHN MADDEN, for two years.

DAVID NELSON, for one year.

*Constables,*

Oliver D. Holmes, Andrew Bagley, Benjamin H. Montague,  
George F. Jacobs, Thomas Donahue, James Powers, Thomas Coyne,  
C. E. Clark, John F. Burke, James W. Donovan, M. W. Edwards,  
Darius Healy, S. A. Andrew, Philip O'Donnell, Martin Broderick.

*Fence Viewers,*

A. J. SUMNER AND ELIAS WHITNEY.

*Field Drivers.*

DAVID FISK, ELISHA J. FROST AND AUGUSTUS  
C. JONES.

*Surveyor of Lumber,*

FRANK ROACH.

*School Committee,*

CHARLES J. THOMPSON, } Term expires March, 1879.  
 GEORGE E. STACY, }

CHARLES A. DEWEY, } Term expires, March, 1880.  
 J. T. CANAVAN, }

GEORGE W. JOHNSON, } Term expires March, 1881.  
 ZIBEON C. FIELD, }

*Trustees of Town Library,*

Silas W. Hale, A. A. Burrill, H. B. Thayer, Charles Lynch,  
 D. J. Cronan, David G. Minton, C. W. Wilcox, H. G. Bailey, P.  
 A. Gleason, John J. Cochrane, C. W. Shippee, J. Allen Rice and  
 E. D. Bancroft.

*Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery,*

LEONARD FAIRBANKS, } Term expires March, 1879.  
 ISAAC N. CROSBY, }

W. IRVING BRADBURY, } Term expires March, 1880.  
 H. C. SKINNER. }

JOHN M. WOOD, } Term expires March, 1881.  
 J. ALLEN FAY, }

*Engineers of Fire Department.*

Moses Day, J. M. Woods, Asaph Withington, Andrew Bagley,  
 J. B. Bancroft, M. W. Edwards, H. C. Skinner.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

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There were 72 marriages recorded in town in 1878, of which 10 were of foreign birth, and 62 of American birth.

There were 230 births recorded, of which 122 had fathers of foreign birth, and 110 had mothers of foreign birth; 107 had fathers of American birth, and 119 had mothers of American birth.

The whole number of deaths recorded were 174, of which 8 were of American parentage, and 94 of foreign parentage; 62 being 5 years and less, 18 over 5 and less than 20 years, 35 being over twenty and less than fifty years, 42 being over fifty and less than eighty years, 15 being over 80 years old, the oldest person being 100 years and 9 months.

### CAUSE OF DEATH.

Consumption, 32,	Old Age, 18,
Diphtheria, 14,	Cholera Infantum, 9,
Heart Disease, 8,	Paralysis, 7,
Whooping Cough, 8,	Infantile, 7,
Convulsions, 7,	Pneumonia, 6,
Disease of Brain, 5,	Decline, 5,
Disease of Liver, 4,	Croup, 3,
Bronchitis, 3,	Apoplexy, 3,
Lung Fever, 3,	Typhoid Fever, 3,
Still Births, 2,	Billious Fever, 2,
Disease of Bowels, 2,	Annema, 2,
Erysipelas, 2,	Insanity, 2.
Tumor, 2,	

Also, one in each of the following named causes: measles, cancer, cold, congestion of lungs, acute laryngitis, abscess, sun stroke, accidental, hemorrhage of lungs, dysentery, suicide, disease of stomach, hemorrhage of stomach, hernia and asphyxia.

There have been 285 dogs licensed since the 30th day of April, 1878.

There have been 5 liquor licenses recorded for the present year.

# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE VERNON GROVE CEMETERY,

For the year ending February 15, 1879.

We have given deeds of eight lots, for which we have received seventy-four dollars.

There have been forty-one interments in the cemetery during the year.

The Treasurer submits the following report:

DR.

To cash due the Treasurer, 1878.....	\$83 58
Paid on old account.....	65 00
Paid labor, dressing etc., 1878.....	31 43
	<hr/>
	\$180 01

CR.

By cash received for deeds.....	\$74 00
Fitting lots.....	40 00
Interest W. B. Dyer's estate.....	9 00
Interest Eunice Albee.....	6 00
Interest Theion Holbrook.....	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$135 00
By balance due the Treasurer.....	45 01
	<hr/>
	\$180 01

All of which is respectfully submitted.

LEONARD FAIRBANKS, *Treasurer.*

L. FAIRBANKS, }  
I. N. CROSBY, } Term expires March 1, 1879.

W. I. BRADBURY, }  
H. C. SKINNER, } Term expires March 1, 1880.

J. M. WOODS, }  
J. A. FAY, } Term expires March 1, 1881.

MILFORD, Feb. 15, 1879.

W. I. BRADBURY, *Secretary.*

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF TOWN LIBRARY.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF MILFORD:—The Trustees of the Public Library respectfully submit the following report:

The Library is now twenty years old. In reviewing the work of the year past, a comparison of the Library's condition now with what it was ten years ago, may not be inappropriate. Then it contained 3337 volumes; now 5447. Then it had a circulation of 21,531; now it has, 36,306. Then it had no Reading-Room; now it possesses one warmed and lighted, where, any secular evening, can be found four different monthlies, five weeklies and six dailies. This Reading-Room is well patronized, as is also the Library. Each helps the other in making known its advantages; and it is doubtless in great part owing to the establishment of the Reading-Room that the Library's circulation has so much increased, and so greatly surpasses that of larger towns. One can judge somewhat of the number of the patrons of the Reading-Room from the number using it between April 8 and May 4, the average for the twenty-three evenings open being 38.3; and between December 2 and 28, when the average was 45.7 an evening. Certainly these numbers prove that the Reading-Room is appreciated, as does the large circulation reported by the Librarian show that the Library is used by the reading public.

An annual circulation of over 36,300 volumes, means a great deal for a town of less than 10,000 inhabitants. It is powerfully affecting the youth, who form far the largest part of the readers.



Not only new words, their arrangement and their meanings are thus acquired almost without knowing it, but ideas, facility of thought and expression, intellectual tastes and mental biases are acquired, which greatly affect the individual's future. Scan, then, we must, this wide-flowing influence. . The selection of the books must be made with such scrutiny that every parent can feel that none but pure and beneficial influences flow from the institution the town maintains. We should go further: None but good or standard works should be provided at the town's expense. Because the lighter works of fiction are read with avidity, is no more an argument for the town's paying for them than because pastry and sweetmeats are relished the town should furnish a free table. This class of literature may safely be left to private purses. A town must receive, directly or indirectly, some substantial benefit, else an outlay is unwarranted. Let us only know that the Library contains nothing to weaken the mind, nothing to vitiate the taste, of the youth of our town, whose minds are so active to appropriate—that it is filled with books of History, Science, Poetry, Politics, Biography and Art; that it is replete with information on a thousand subjects—a storehouse of the wit, wisdom and experience of the past, and the town will stanchly sustain it as an educative power second only to our schools, and working in harmony with them.

Your Standing Committee, after paying the running expenses, devoted the most of the remaining money to replacing the best of the books lost and worn out whose names were on the catalogue.

The so-called slip system of issuing books has worked admirably, and it is believed will be of much use in preserving the books from getting lost or unaccounted for.

Considering the greatly increased and increasing circulation, the Trustees recommend an appropriation of one thousand dollars.

S. W. HALE, Chairman.



TO THE TRUSTEES OF MILFORD TOWN LIBRARY:—I present herewith my fifth and the twentieth annual report of the town library.

The library opened Feb. 20th, 1878, and the year ended Feb. 8th, 1879, and was open 298 days. The whole number of books taken out was 36,306, against 35,562 the year previous.

Largest daily circulation	January 4, 1879.....	492 vols.
Smallest	“ Oct. 23, 1878.....	26 “
Average	“ for the year, nearly.....	122 “

Cards have been issued to 1858 persons.

Number of postal card notices sent delinquents, 202.

“ “ books recovered by personal application at residence, 9.

Number of books not returned, 1. No. 223, D, taken out June 1, by Wilbur Hayward, who is at present in Cherokee, Iowa. One book has been lost and the value of the same paid for.

Number of volumes covered during the year.....	2256
“ “ “ bound “ “ “ .....	171

Cash received for fines, \$62,82. Cash rec'd for catalogues, \$9,50.

There is due the library, for fines, \$16,76, from 150 persons, from whom circulation is withheld. Number of books added during the year, 165. By purchase, 132, by donation 28, by binding magazines, 5. There have also been purchased 174 volumes, to supply deficiencies in catalogue caused by several years wear and loss. The library contains, as per catalogue, 5447 volumes.

The books donated were from the following :

Hon. Wm. Claflin, 14 ; State of Mass., 6 ; Surgeon-Gen. Barnes, through Wm. Claflin, 3 ; Nicholson File Co., Providence, R. I., 1 ; Lieut. Wheeler, War Department, 1 ; Smithsonian Institute, 1 ; Quincy Public Library, through Rev. E. A. Perry, 1 ; friend, 1. The Patent Office Gazette has been received from the Patent Office.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

NATH'L F. BLAKE, Librarian.

Milford, Feb. 10, 1879.

## TREASURER'S REPORT OF MILFORD TOWN LIBRARY.

## DR.

To cash received of A. A. Burrell, treasurer last year...	\$212 08
E. C. Claflin, town appropriation.....	1000 00
“ “ dog tax.....	252 20
Librarian for fines.....	62 82
“ “ catalogues.....	9 50
“ “ old papers.....	5 18
Boston Pilot Company, cash returned.....	65
Books lost.....	67
	<hr/>
	\$1543.10

## CR.

Librarian's salary.....	\$300 00
Care of Reading-Room.....	78 00
Rent.....	200 00
Cleaning rooms.....	3 95
Gas.....	135 10
Slip Boxes.....	7 75
Insurance.....	61 50
Coal.....	20 63
Printing.....	10 55
Binding books.....	38 33
Papers and Magazines.....	71 97
Books.....	391 77
Gas pipe and labor.....	6 00
Express and freight.....	4 65
Argand burners.....	7 10
Stationery and incidentals.....	12 41
Balance of cash on hand.....	193 39
	<hr/>
	\$1543.10

J. ALLEN RICE, Treasurer.

REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
AND  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
OF THE  
TOWN OF MILFORD,  
FOR THE  
SCHOOL YEAR 1878-79.

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MILFORD, MASS.

COOK AND SONS, STEAM JOB PRINTERS,

*Journal Office, 1879.*

## BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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CHARLES J. THOMPSON, }	Term expires
GEORGE E. STACY, }	1879.

J. T. CANAVAN, }	Term expires
CHAS. A. DEWEY, }	1880.

GEORGE W. JOHNSON, }	Term expires
ZIBEON C. FIELD, }	1881.

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JOHN W. SIMONDS,

*Superintendent of Schools.*



## REPORT.

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The School Committee submit the following report :

Appropriations were made at the last March meeting for the support of schools as follows :

For salaries of teachers.....	\$16500 00
Salary of Superintendent.....	1500 00
Expenses of Evening school.....	500 00
Care of houses.....	1000 00
Fuel .....	1000 00
Repairs .....	750 00
Incidentals .....	750 00
Received from dog tax.....	248 51
“ “ school fund.....	345 62
	<hr/>
	\$22,594 13

The expenses during the year have been :

Salaries of teachers.....	\$15952 10
Salary of Superintendent.....	1500 00
Care of houses.....	955 66
Fuel .....	717 53
Repairs .....	1158 17
Evening school, about.....	300 00
Incidentals .....	1785 91
Exchange of books.....	1034 58
	<hr/>
	\$23,403 95

The School Committee take this opportunity to refer briefly to a few matters, which should be considered in reference to the expenditures of the town. Within the last year, the sum of \$2000 has been appropriated for two objects, not formerly provided for, one being the salary of a School Superintendent, the other the support of an Evening School.

The new system of employing a single individual to do the work, previously done by the Committee, has now been on trial for nearly two years, a period long enough for us to judge fairly of its practical working and real value. And the committee are decidedly of the opinion that the system works well, and that it would be exceedingly unwise and impolitic to return to the old method. The test of experience has only served to strengthen the opinion, held by this committee as well as by its predecessors, for quite a number of years, that it is good policy for the town of Milford to employ a School Superintendent. In a town as large as this, with over forty teachers in our schools, the members of the committee cannot discharge such duties in a manner satisfactory to themselves or to the public. They generally have not the requisite qualifications, they are largely absorbed in their private business, and have not the spare time requisite for the proper discharge of their duty in reference to the schools. And so your committee feel satisfied of the great importance of having a Superintendent, a man fitted by nature, by education, by experience, for the responsible and difficult position of overseeing and directing the management of our schools. The salary is a moderate one, even at this period of economy and retrenchment, and it should not be forgotten that a considerable part of the sum devoted to that purpose, would otherwise go to the committee as compensation for their services.

With regard to the Evening School, your committee, who were at first doubtful as to its expediency, and quite uncertain as to its practical operation, are now happy to pronounce it an entire success. The number of young men, desiring to avail themselves of this opportunity to acquire a better education, and make up for past deficiencies, has greatly exceeded our expectations. We have been highly gratified to observe their zeal and devotion to their studies,

and the progress they have made. We are thus led to recommend the continued support of the Evening School.

The appropriation made for repairs proved quite insufficient for the work to be done. But the Committee deemed it clearly their duty to see the school buildings of the town did not suffer from neglect, and to keep them in good repair. They believe the repairs were necessary and the money well expended.

A large sum has been spent during the year for exchange of books, which has caused the excess of our expenses over our receipts. The introduction of new books is a matter that has been under consideration for many years, but owing to the hard times, action has been delayed, and Milford had fallen far behind other towns in this respect. Your Committee felt that changes were so essential to the interests of our schools, that it was unwise to delay longer the use of certain books, believed to be much superior to those formerly in use in our Common schools. This large purchase of books was made at the lowest rates, and on the most reasonable terms.

The salaries of some of our teachers have been reduced the past year, that of the Principal of the High School from \$1800 to \$1600; those of three Principals of our Grammar Schools from \$720 to \$648.

After careful consideration, your Committee recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year:

For salaries of teachers.....	\$16500 00
“ “ superintendent.....	1500 00
Care of houses.....	1000 00
Fuel.....	1000 00
Repairs .....	1000 00
Incidentals .....	1000 00
Evening School .....	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$22,500 00

C. J. THOMPSON,  
J. T. CANAVAN,  
G. W. JOHNSON,  
Z. C. FIELD,  
G. E. STACY,  
C. A. DEWEY.

*School Committee.*



# REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

MILFORD, MASS., February 10, 1879.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MILFORD :

In submitting to you my second annual school report, it is very gratifying to record that steady progress has attended the efforts put forth in favor of the public schools, and good returns have followed the appropriations made for their support. The evidences of improvement, both striking and encouraging, will appear upon these pages. The report will also present a plain and honest exposition of the defects that still encumber our school system, with mention of suitable means of relief. Such recommendations will be made as appear necessary to secure continued advancement. An account will be given of the most important measures adopted by the School Committee. A summary of the services rendered by the Superintendent, will appear in this general recital.

## CHANGES MADE.

When I entered the schools of Milford as Superintendent in September 1877, all the teachers had been engaged for that year, the promotions made, the schools organized and classified according to the customs and methods that prevailed. Under such circumstances, it was evident that no general changes could have been well introduced at the outset. My first work, as I comprehended the situation, in making the acquaintance of teachers, scholars and citizens, was that of a careful inspection of the schools, and a considerate investigation of their condition, wants and defects. This work well performed, then the foundation would be laid for a regular and systematic course of action for building up and improving the schools. After a few weeks' residence in town, I was impressed from my associations with the School Committee and citizens, that a general sentiment prevailed among the people and patrons of the schools, that the amount of useful school instruction and public education received was not commensurate with the amount of public good which should be reasonably expected from the money expended. At the same time, I was further impressed from my visits to the schools that the degree of



confusion which existed in their organization and management constituted a strong barrier to improvement and success. These various defects were set forth in a plain manner in my first report, and the proper remedies suggested.

Immediately upon the organization of the School Committee for the current year, measures were adopted looking toward changes, reforms and improvements in the school system. The leading measures adopted by the Committee, after full discussion, were embraced in eight votes or resolutions, viz: (1) That a suitable room on Main street should be secured for an office for the Superintendent of Schools; (2) that school books and supplies should be furnished through that office at cost; (3) that a practical English course for two years should be established in the High school, and that two sessions should be held daily; (4) that the Superintendent report a schedule of study for the High school, which should include a Practical English course for two years, a College Preparatory course, and a High school course of four years; (5) that the Superintendent should report what changes should be made in the text books in the Primary and Grammar schools; (6) that promotions to higher grades of school should be made upon a basis of proficiency in scholarship; (7) that scholars completing the Grammar school studies and passing in a satisfactory manner the oral and written examinations, shall receive certificates which will admit them to the High school without further examination; and (8) that the Superintendent prepare a new schedule or manuel of study for the Primary and Grammar grades. The reasons which demanded the adoption of these measures, were presented in my last report and need not be repeated here.

The School Committee, in adopting these measures, evidently designed to amend thoroughly the school system of the town and establish it upon a basis adapted to the present actual condition and wants of public instruction. All of the measures specified have been incorporated into the management and working of the schools. Thus the school history of Milford for the past year will stand out prominently on account of changes made and new features introduced, and will be distinguished in after years as an era of progress in the work of public instruction. Attention is invited to a more detailed account of the execution of these votes, and the favorable results attending.

#### OFFICE FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The care of renting and furnishing a room which could be used by the Superintendent, was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Johnson, Canavan and the Superintendent. A room on the second floor in Washington Block, furnished with a carpet, stove and book-case, was engaged at a rent of five dollars per month. The cost of furnishing the office has been: Chairs, \$10.75; table, \$5.00; bureau, \$3.00; lamp, \$3.00; mirror, 75 cts;

mat and other articles, \$1.50. Total \$24.00. The cost of fuel and lights to date has been about \$6.75. The meetings of the School Committee have been held in this room, and the school supplies have been kept there. The regular office hours of the Superintendent have been from 8 to 9 o'clock each morning, when the schools are in session, and Monday and Friday evenings at 7 o'clock.

#### SCHOOL BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

Section 29 of Chapter 38 of the school laws, prescribes that "the School Committee shall procure, at the expense of the city or town, a sufficient supply of text books for the public schools, and give notice were they may be obtained. Said books shall be furnished to the pupils at such prices as to merely reimburse the expense of the same. The School Committee may also procure, at the expense of the town or city, such apparatus, books of reference, and other means of illustration, as they deem necessary for the schools under their supervision, in accordance with appropriations therefor previously made."

Acting in accordance with the compulsory mandates of the law just quoted, the Committee made provisions for supplying text books to scholars through the office of the Superintendent of schools from the beginning of the Fall term. Before any purchase of books was made in Boston, a committee consisting of Messrs. Johnson, Stacy and the Superintendent, was appointed to call upon the publishers, or their agents, and ascertain their lowest prices. We were informed that towns could buy books at rates somewhat less than ordinary retail dealers. It is not possible to report how many dollars have been saved to parents during the past six months by this public supply of school books. I can report, however, the saving in the first cost. The school books held by the book-sellers of Milford, September 1st, were taken by the Committee at the wholesale rates which they paid. The wholesale prices paid for the Readers here and to the publishers were the same, with a discount of ten per cent. by the publishers. This discount or saving has amounted to \$31.38. That sum, diminished by the trifling expense of transportation, added to the usual profit of the traders, would show the actual saving on the Readers.

The following table will show the saving in first cost of the common school books:

		Publishers' wholesale price.	Net cost at a discount of 10 per cent.	Traders' wholesale price.	Saving per book.
Large Arithmetic,	. . .	.52	.468	.68	.212
Small Arithmetic,	. . .	.28	.252	.31	.058
Large Grammar,	. . .	.45	.405	.50	.095
Small Grammar,	. . .	.28	.252	.30	.048
Large Geography,	. . .	.94	.846	1.05	.204
Small Geography,	. . .	.45	.405	.56	.155



Such school supplies as crayons, black-board erasers, slate and lead pencils, pens and penholders, ink-wells, globes, dictionaries and other books for teachers' use and reference, paper for written examinations, and the like, have been purchased in Boston at wholesale rates. Water pails, water dippers, brooms, dusters, and door mats, have been bought at stores in Milford at a discount upon the retail prices.

Ink and slates have not been furnished by the Committee. Some saving would be made by purchasing the ink by the quantity and delivering it through this office. It may be well to state that an agent of a responsible firm has called upon me who offers good ink for 90 cents per gallon, delivered free, and warrants the same to be uninjured by freezing.

REVISION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL COURSE.

It is not necessary to review the various reasons presented in the report of last year which influenced the Committee to adopt measures which have secured a thorough reconstruction of the High school course. This statement will be sufficient: that, in my opinion, the Committee deliberately acted with reference to conferring the "greatest good upon the largest number."

Much time and study was devoted to the preparation of this revised course of study. The Superintendent had the subject under consideration three months before reporting in a printed form. Each member of the School Committee examined and considered the report in a careful manner. The principal of the High school was asked to consider the matter and to give his views before the Committee. Finally, at a meeting of the School Committee held Aug. 29, 1878, the report of the Superintendent was approved and adopted without any change.

That report is here incorporated. The figure at the right of a study indicates the number of recitations per week, when less than five:

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE — FOUR YEARS.  
BUSINESS COURSE—TWO YEARS.  
FIRST YEAR.

FALL TERM.

<i>English Language and Literature.</i>	<i>Mathematics.</i>	<i>Science.</i>
Grammar, <i>a</i> 3. Reading and Spelling, <i>b</i> 2.	Book-keeping, <i>c</i> 3. Drawing. 2.	Physical Geog., <i>d</i> 5.

*a.* Prefixes, suffixes, word analysis, parsing, grammatical analysis, sentence making. *b* Vocal drill.  
*c.* Forms for bills, notes, receipts, etc. Daily drill exercise of 10 minutes in the four simple rules of arithmetic, and their combinations.  
*d.* Familiar lectures by teacher upon mineralogy and geology.

## WINTER TERM.

Grammar, <i>e</i> 3. Reading, Spelling and Defining, 2 <i>f</i> .	Book-keeping, <i>g</i> 4. Drawing, 1.	Physical Geog., <i>h</i> 5.
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*e.* Syntax, correction of forms of expressions and sentences, analysis of poetry, parsing, sentence making, letter writing. *f* Vocal drills continued.

*g.* Daily drill exercise in common and decimal fractions, their combinations, and in arithmetical analysis.

*h.* Lectures by teacher upon plants, animals, and ethnography.

## SPRING TERM.

Civil Government, <i>i</i> 3. Composition & Speaking, 1. Reading, 1.	Business Arith., <i>j</i> 4. Drawing, 1.	Physiology and Hygiene, <i>k</i> 5.
--	---	--

*i.* Composition and speaking by the class, in divisions.

*j.* Explanations and drill exercises upon the principles of the simple rules, fractions, analysis, percentage, proportion and square root, with test examples. Solution of business problems. Illustrative examples composed by scholars.

*k.* Lectures by teacher upon ventilation, food, clothing, cleanliness, light, heat, exercise, sleep, etc.

## GENERAL EXERCISES.

Singing,	15 minutes, 4 days each week.
Lecture by principal,	" 1 day " "

## SECOND YEAR.

## FALL TERM.

Ancient History, 5.	Algebra, 4. Speaking and Composition, 1.	Natural Philosophy, 4. Drawing, 1.
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## WINTER TERM.

History Mid. Ages, 4. Speaking and Composition, 1.	Algebra, 5.	Philosophy, 1-2 term, 4. Electricity, " 4. Drawing, 1.
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## SPRING TERM.

Modern History, 4. Speaking and Composition, 1.	Geometry, <i>l</i> 5.	Chemistry.
--	-----------------------	------------

*l.* Mensuration of plane surfaces and solids.

Scholars completing the Business Course, and passing the written and oral examinations in a satisfactory manner, will receive certificates of graduation.

## THIRD YEAR.

## FALL TERM.

Rhetoric, <i>m</i> .	Geometry.	Geology.
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*m.* Frequent illustrative exercises, prepared by scholars.

## WINTER TERM.

Rhetoric. Rhet'1 Composition and Analysis. English Literature.	Geometry.	Astronomy.
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## SPRING TERM.

English Literature.	Algebra.	Zoology, 2 weeks. Botany, 12 "
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## FOURTH YEAR.

## FALL TERM.

Constitution of U.S. and State Government.	Plane Trigonometry.	Mental Science.
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## WINTER TERM.

Political Economy, with essays.	Surveying and Mensuration.	Mental Science, with themes and abstracts.
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## SPRING TERM.

Topical review of Grammar, Geography and U. S. History. Elocutionary Drill.	Topical review of Arith- metic, Algebra and Geometry.	Moral Science, with essays and written discussions.
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## GENERAL EXERCISES.

Original declamations and themes by the Senior Class before the school. Written and oral discussions.

## OPTIONAL.

Scholars can substitute Latin or French for two years in place of the Mathematics and Moral Science, the third and fourth years of the course.

Those taking the Latin, will pursue it with the classes preparing for college.

## FRENCH COURSE FOR TWO YEARS.

French Grammar and Exercises. Reader. Dictionary. Corrinne. Picciola.

## COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSE.

## FIRST YEAR.

## FALL TERM.

*Latin.* Grammar and Reader. Mathematics and Science, for the year, the same as the High School course.

## WINTER TERM.

*Latin* Grammar and Reader. Latin Composition begun.

## SPRING TERM.

*Latin.* Grammar. Reader finished. Composition continued. Ancient Cosmogony.

## SECOND YEAR.

## FALL TERM.

*Latin.* Grammar continued through the course. Cæsar begun. Ancient Geography. Latin Composition and test exercises continued through the course.

*Greek.* Lessons and Grammar.

*History.* Ancient, Middle Ages and Modern for the year, same as High School course.

WINTER TERM.

*Latin.* Same branches continued.

*Greek.* Grammar and Reader.

SPRING TERM.

*Latin.* Same branches continued.

*Greek.* Grammar continued through the course. Reader continued. Greek composition begun and continued through the course.

*General, during the year.* Greek and Roman Antiquities.

THIRD YEAR.

*Latin* for the year. Virgil, 6 books of the Illiad and Eclogues, with Latin Lexicon. Especial attention to syntax, prosody and idioms.

*Greek.* Anabasis, with Greek Lexicon. Especial attention to the verb, and to the grammatical and logical construction of Greek sentences.

*Mathematics.* The same as the second year of the High School course.

*General, during the year.* Latin and Greek Mythology. Exercises weekly in declamation and composition.

FOURTH YEAR.

*Latin* for first and second terms. Georgics of Virgil. Seven Orations of Cicero, with Lexicon. Grammatical analysis of Latin sentences. Logical analysis of the argument. Rhetorical analysis of the discourse.

*Greek.* Homer, with Lexicon. Greek Prosody. Idioms. Dialects.

*Mathematics* for the year. Same as the third year of the High School course.

*General, during the year.* Written translations. Exercises weekly in declamation and composition.

SPRING TERM.

General reviews in Latin, Greek, and Mathematics.

*General.* Teachers in the Classical Course will be expected to notice and explain all practicable illustrations in Historical Etymology, in Comparative Grammar, and the meaning of words.

Daily, term and annual reviews in each study and course.

Written examinations in each study near the middle and close of each term.

Public oral examinations in all studies at the close of each term.



Students completing either course of study in a satisfactory manner, and passing the required written and oral examinations, will receive certificates of graduation.

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GENTLEMEN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

The foregoing schedule of studies, with the brief explanatory notes, is respectfully submitted for your consideration as my report upon the revision of the courses of study for the High School, made agreeably to your request.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. SIMONDS, SUPT. OF SCHOOLS.

Milford, Mass., Aug. 20, 1878.

At a meeting of the School Committee, held Aug. 29, 1878, the above course of study was adopted.

GEORGE E. STACY, Secretary.

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#### CHANGES IN TEXT BOOKS.

The pressing need of a change in text books, excepting the Readers, used in the Primary and Grammar schools, was discussed at length in the report for last year. The Superintendent, by request, reported to the Committee in August last what changes, in his opinion, should be made. The subject of these changes was considered and discussed by the Committee in several meetings. Different views were entertained and expressed; but when the final vote was taken which completed and established the changes named hereafter, that vote received the approval of each of the six members of the Committee.

White's Complete Arithmetic and White's Intermediate Arithmetic were adopted for use in the Grammar grades in place of Robinson's Practical, Robinson's Intellectual and Demarest's and Greenleaf's Primary Arithmetics. White's Primary Arithmetic was adopted for the "desk" book of teachers in Primary grades, in place of Greenleaf's Primary, which had been used by scholars. Thus now we have two books in Arithmetic in place of four formerly.

Swinton's New English Grammar and New Language Lessons were adopted in place of Pinneo's English Grammar, Primary Grammar and Pinneo's Composition. Swinton's Language Primer is now used for the "desk" for teachers in Primary grades. We now have two books in Grammar, in place of three.

Harper's School Geography and Harper's Introductory Geography were adopted in place of Cornell's Intermediate Geography and Cornell's Primary Geography.

Harvey's Graded Speller has been adopted as the "desk" book for teachers in place of Worcester's Pronouncing Speller, formerly used by scholars.

The improved character of the work performed, and greater proficiency made by the several classes in the new books, fully justify the action of the Committee in the changes made, without considering the saving which will annually be made in the expense of books.

Several school books have been put upon teachers' desks for reference and use which are designed to aid the teachers and scholars by giving them fuller and broader views upon the subjects taught. I consider such aids essential to good teaching. Several volumes of these reference books have been presented by publishers. Those purchased, have been obtained at one-half the usual rates. Our Primary and Grammar grades are now well supplied with excellent text-books. The supply of reference books, including dictionaries, is quite good.

#### PROMOTIONS.

Acting upon a plan submitted to the Committee and approved by them, namely, that the promotions to higher classes be made upon a basis of proficiency in study, the promotions made in September sent to each school of Grammar grade one class instead of two, as in previous years, excepting No. 1 Grammar school, which still has two classes. This change has had a very favorable influence upon the order and progress of the schools. We now have scholars in several schools who held exceptional positions as to promotions. They may not be studying all the branches, or not qualified to go on in all studies, or well qualified in any. These are the scholars who can attend school only a part of the time, as the winter, or have been in one school until they have physically outgrown it, and will not, in all probability, go through the Grammar school course. Unless the methods of promoting possess some reasonable and sensible flexibility, such scholars will be placed in grades so low as to effectually exclude them from school privileges. My plan has been to cheerfully admit such scholars, and place them in schools where they can receive the most benefit during their limited attendance, and consider them exceptional scholars as to qualifications. In fact, I know of no other way of accommodating that deserving class of scholars under the present organization of our schools. Such scholars would be better accommodated and taught in an ungraded school, organized to meet their special wants. Such an ungraded school, located in the central part of the town, taught by a schoolmaster, would open a suitable place for the government and instruction of scholars unmanageable in other schools. There is no question but the efficiency of the public schools in Milford would be promoted by the establishment of such a school. I have no doubt that the class of scholars who would attend that school, would receive instruction and training well adapted to their wants and capacities.

The need and establishment of an ungraded school, as de-



scribed, is respectfully submitted to the consideration of the School Committee and citizens.

#### ADMISSION TO THE HIGH SCHOOL.

That class of the common schools which is usually denominated the High school, constitutes one of the grades in our free public school system. The advantages offered in the High school should be open and accessible alike to all youth who have passed, in a satisfactory manner, the previous studies. Unless this accessibility exists, that great principle which underlies the American system of education, and proposes to confer the greatest amount of good upon the largest number, is certainly perverted. The promotions through the different grades in the Primary and Grammar schools are regular, depending upon the proficiency and ability of the scholar. A special and formal examination, conducted in an unusual place and by others than teachers for all who should offer themselves for promotion to a higher Primary or Grammar grade, would not really be more absurd than determining the admissions to the High school by one similar special and formal examination. The dread and fear of such examinations deter many from applying, and thus exclude them from the advantages of the free school. It cannot be claimed that a single examination, however justly it be conducted, would constitute an equable test of scholarship and ability. Timid scholars would be very liable to present evidences of inferior work. Bold and self-possessed scholars would do better than usual.—Hence, the examiner must inquire of the previous attainments and ability of the applicant, or render an unjust decision. Evidently the method adopted by the School Committee is just and fair to all. A careful record of the rank of each scholar for the year is kept by the teacher, in Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography and United States History, according to a uniform plan prepared by the Superintendent. The monthly averages of this rank, are sent to parents for examination in the monthly reports. These averages are summed up at the close of the year, and are used in obtaining the general standing of the scholar. This general average is further modified by an average obtained from two written examinations, held each term, in which the questions have been prepared by the Superintendent and the papers carefully examined by him.

When persons apply for admission to the High school who have not been members of the Grammar school the preceding year, then the public examination is the only test offered.

I think the Committee will find it advisable to extend to the High school that regulation common in the Grammar schools, which requires scholars not qualified by rank or habits of study for promotion to higher classes, to remain in that class a longer time, or withhold the diploma at the end of the course.

## SCHEDULE AND MANUAL OF STUDIES.

A printed schedule of study, well devised, with proper explanatory notes, is essential for regular and uniform work in a system of graded schools. This schedule should clearly specify the work, by topics and pages, for each term in the course, the amount prescribed based upon the ability of the average scholar. The manual or explanatory directions would guide teachers in their work, and save numerous losses liable from trials and experiments. The schedule formerly prepared for the schools, will not apply to their present condition. I think, with the experiences and information of this year, that a schedule and manual can be prepared during the Spring term, which will be of great practical value.

It is respectfully submitted to the Committee that the "Rules and Regulations" for the management of the schools, duties of the Superintendent, and business transactions of the Committee, need a thorough amending and revising.

The changes made, the improvements introduced, and the work performed, as given in the preceding pages, have attended the adoption of the eight leading measures or votes mentioned.

Other services of a prudential nature have been rendered by the Superintendent, under the direction and counsel of the Committee, which it may be well to report.

## EXPENDITURES.

I must acknowledge that this report will be defective, in failing to present a tabulated statement of the expenditures for support of schools, arranged in an intelligible manner. The reason of this omission arises from the manner in which the records of the school expenditures are kept according to the Regulations adopted by the School Committee some years since. The Secretary keeps an accurate account of the amount of each bill paid. This is done for the convenience of the Committee. The Secretary is not required, as I understand, to keep either an itemized or tabulated statement of the bills paid. This latter work is done by the Selectmen, who publish in their annual report a statement of school expenditures. There can be no question but the Selectmen's report is strictly accurate, for it is made from vouchers in their possession. I beg to suggest to the School Committee that, in my opinion, a report of the school expenditures should be made, under their direction, by the Superintendent or Secretary, wherein these expenditures, properly itemized and tabulated, should be recorded. The financial part of the school report, made in this manner, would certainly have the advantage of presenting to the town the prudential management of the schools in an intelligent manner. The Selectmen, relieved of publishing the details of the school expenses in their report, would need to present only summaries or aggregates. This explanation will, I trust, be accepted as a suitable apology for the imperfectness of this part of my report.



Mention will now be made of expenses incurred through my agency, under the direction and counsel of the committee on finance.

*House Cleaning* One hundred and eighty-six dollars and seventy-nine cents have been paid during the year for cleaning the school rooms and out-buildings. That sum includes a thorough scrubbing given to every District, Primary and Grammar school-room in town, with the privies attached, excepting the schoolhouse on Silver Hill, and an expense of some ten dollars incurred in the annual cleaning of the High school rooms. The wood-work, windows, walls and ceilings of these rooms, halls and stairways, were in a very unclean condition. As I have been informed by teachers and janitors, many of these rooms had not been cleaned for years; some of them had been wiped a little. Any good housewife can fancy the condition of a room, exposed to the dirt from highways, occupied by sixty children nine months in the year, for one, three or five years.

Persons well recommended were engaged to do this work. The usual price,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents per hour, was paid women. Men were employed for a few days upon work women could not perform, at \$1.50 per ten hours. A teacher living near each schoolhouse was invited to assist me in superintending the work, which valuable service was rendered without compensation. I usually examined the work in each building, forenoon and afternoon. This cleaning included a thorough sweeping of the plastering upon the walls and ceilings, a washing of the windows on both sides, a scrubbing of the wood work of the walls of the rooms, halls and entries, scrubbing of the floors, stairways, desks and chairs, a thorough scrubbing of all inside window-blinds—which was a very laborious work—blackening the stoves, and washing the privies. Thirty-eight school-rooms were cleaned in this manner.

*Locks and Keys.* Locks and keys were placed upon all the drawers in teachers' desks, not previously having them, at the beginning of the Fall term. This was necessary for several "desks" books were lost during vacation. Locks and keys were placed upon the doors of all water-closets, excepting one building, at the same time. The doors of the closets have been open during school hours and locked the rest of the time. From the care given these buildings, after the annual cleaning, they have been kept in a decent condition, which could not have been reported of them last year.

*Whitewashing, Painting.* The wood work of upper room in the old Town House, the two rooms in West street school, the rooms of the City school, of the Fountain street school, and of North Purchase Primary, were painted, agreeably to contracts made by the Committee. The upper room at the old Town House was papered. All of these rooms were whitewashed, and the two rooms at

Hopedale and No. 2 at the South Grammar. The plastering of the entries at the South Grammar, Park and North Grammar, were calcimined. The plastering of all rooms was repaired, wherever necessary.

*Blackboards.* The blackboards in all of the school rooms were repaired and painted by Messrs. Eldredge & Beattay, agreeably to the terms of a special contract made by the Committee. New blackboards were added as needed in some rooms. The blackboards are now in good condition, and they will not need another so general repairing for two or three years.

*Other Repairs.* Ink wells and covers were supplied to all desks needing either. Window glass and cords were repaired, chars and desks fastened to the floors. It was necessary to make several changes of furniture from one room to another, to fit the furniture to the changed condition of the schools. The clocks needing repair, were cleaned and repaired by special contract made by the Committee.

It was my purpose to put the school rooms in a clean and comfortable condition at the opening of the Fall term, and then hold teachers, janitors and scholars responsible, to a reasonable extent, in keeping them tidy and tasteful.

*Supplies.* I presume that the expenditures for that class of supplies necessary and useful to the teachers and schools in their regular work, has exceeded the average sum expended in former years. The reason of this increased expense for globes, dictionaries, desk books, measures, manuals, and reference books, was the real need of such supplies. Not a penny has been expended in an unnecessary manner. Several of the books have been contributed by publishers. Those bought, have been obtained at one-half the usual retail rates. The books thus supplied will be of permanent value, and no further special expense in that direction will be called for.

It has been my purpose, in rendering these supplies, to furnish teachers all proper needed helps, and then hold them responsible for intelligent work.

#### BOOKS BOUGHT OF THE TRADERS.

When the Committee decided to furnish school books through this office, I was instructed to take the school books from the hands of the booksellers in town at the wholesale prices they paid for them. I received school books from traders to the amount of \$374.42. The town has suffered a loss of \$39.29 on that lot of books, which is accounted for as follows: Loss in exchanging Arithmetics costing \$39.29, \$2.48. Sixty-five publications, old editions and out of print and use, which cost \$30.49, were sold to an antiquarian bookseller for \$6.00, being a loss of \$24.49. \$12.32 were lost in exchanging thirty-four books not merchantable here or used in our schools.



## FREE EXCHANGE OF BOOKS.

A legislative Act, approved March 14, 1876, declares if any change is made in the books used in the public schools, the substituted books shall be furnished by the School Committee at the expense of the town. Three sections of that act are as follows :

“Sect. 1. The school committee shall direct what books shall be used in the public schools, and shall prescribe, as far as practicable, a course of studies and exercises to be pursued in said schools.

Sect. 2. In any town or city in this Commonwealth, a change may be made in the school books used in the public schools by a vote of two-thirds of the whole school committee thereof, at a meeting of said committee, notice of such intended change having been given at a previous meeting of said committee.

Sect. 3. If any change is made, as provided for in section second of this act, each pupil then belonging to the public schools and requiring the substituted book shall be furnished with the same by the school committee, at the expense of said town or city.”

## ARITHMETICS.

Bought of M. W. Tewksbury, Boston.

532	White's Complete Arithmetic, at 52 cents each.....	\$277 64
671	“ Intermediate “ at 28 “ “ ....	187 88
68	“ Primary “ at 17 “ “ ....	11 56
		<hr/>
		\$477 08

## GRAMMARS AND GEOGRAPHIES.

Bought of A. C. Stockin, Boston.

582	Harper's School Geography at 94 cents.....	\$547 08
468	Harper's Introductory Geography at 45 cents.....	210 60
228	Swinton's Grammar at 45 cents.....	102 60
856	Swinton's Language Lessons at 28 cents.....	239 68
20	Swinton's Language Primer at 22 cents.....	4 40
		<hr/>
		\$1104 36

Reference is made to the report of the School Committee relative to the payment of these bills.

School supplies have been purchased in Boston as follows :

New England School Furnishing Co.....	\$ 67 80
Holmes & Co.....	131 45

All of the transactions named have been examined and approved by the Committee on finance.

## ECONOMY OF GOOD SCHOOLS.

In a republic like ours, each citizen should be intelligent, virtuous and industrious. Free public schools must be maintained for the purpose of instructing the youth in the elements of knowledge, essential to safe citizenship. Intelligence conduces to virtue and industry. The ignorant savage is quarrelsome, improvident, and labors to gratify his present desires, without thought for the future. Civilized man, on the contrary, is peaceful, frugal and thrifty, wisely providing for future wants.

School-houses are cheaper and more respectable than poor-houses and jails. Good schools are less expensive conservators of peace than fortifications and armies. Virtuous intelligence is more reliable and far less costly to the State or community than vicious ignorance.

The influence of good public schools is immeasurable. Their intelligent support, at any reasonable cost, is wise economy, and the highway to success and greatness in life. Economy, that is, frugality in expenditures, the careful avoidance of all wastes and extravagances, the application of all resources to the very best advantage, will ever be regarded a cardinal virtue in school management.

*Unwise Economy.* No sensible business man would employ carpenters to finish his house and furnish them with clumsy, worn-out implements. He would spend money to purchase the best and most appropriate tools. In that way he would secure the best quality of work in a given time. By spending money, he would save money. In the same way, wastes, losses, discouragements and failures, are apparent to an experienced school supervisor, when school work is undertaken without an adequate supply of the appointments essential to good work by scholars and teachers.

## TEACHERS.

M. Cousin says: "The best plans of instruction cannot be executed but by good teachers, and the State has done nothing for popular education, if it does not watch that those who have devoted themselves to teaching be well prepared, then suitably placed, encouraged, and guided in the duty of continued self-improvement, and lastly, rewarded and promoted in proportion to their advancement, and punished according to their faults." There can be no question concerning the truth of these assertions.

Requisites for a successful teacher. 1, An organization of mind, natural aptitude and love for teaching. 2, Strength, health, energy, with powers of endurance. 3, Accurate and abundant knowledge of the branches to be taught. 4, Sufficient general knowledge to enable one to understand the true bearing of the subjects taught to other subjects as a part of a general education. 5,



An acquaintance with the philosophy of the mind pertaining to the acquirement of knowledge, the order of the development of the mental faculties and the proper methods of their cultivation. 6, A knowledge of the best methods of instruction, of economizing time and means, and of the teaching power in school, and some familiarity with the history, science and art of education. 7, Devotion to the work, and pride in it, with constant attention to educational works and publications for the purpose of self-improvement.

Wise economy will reject incompetent and inefficient teachers. Money paid such teachers is worse than lost, for they make scholars lazy, careless, unreliable, vicious, superficial in study, stronger to do wrong and weaker to do right.

#### CHANGES IN TEACHERS.

Previous to the time of the annual election of teachers in June, Mrs. Mary T. Cole and Mrs. Anna E. Tarr resigned their places as teachers, which they had held for several years, to take place at the close of the school year. Mrs. H. W. Staples was obliged to leave her school during the Winter term, 1877-8 on account of sickness in her family. Miss Anna E. Gates resigned her place in August before the Fall term began. Miss Minnie E. Jones resigned at the close of the Fall term. The two last-named persons left their public work for wedded life. The vacancies thus made were offered to promising and successful teachers in the lower grades. Several changes were made in the assignment of teachers to schools with the idea of adapting talent to service required.

#### UNGRADED SCHOOLS.

Six schools, viz: The City, Silver Hill, So. Milford, Bear Hill, Braggville and Deerbrook are organized upon the "District" plan. Scholars are formed into classes according to their advancement in the different branches, and, whenever qualified, pass to higher studies in any branch without the regular annual promotions. This arrangement allows the greatest freedom to individual ability. These schools are not crowded with members, the classes, though more numerous, have a smaller number of scholars. Each scholar probably receives more time for personal drill from the teacher than in the graded schools. The studies comprise the whole range of the common school course. Young scholars are benefited by hearing older scholars recite. Older scholars have their previous work reviewed by the recitations of the younger. These schools are better designed to inculcate general information than a graded school. When scholars have advanced in these schools to the grade of No. 1 Grammar classes, I find that the time of teachers is very busily occupied, sometimes so hurried as to require them to do some work in a hasty manner. Relief for this pressure can be found, if practicable, by transferring such scholars to the classes in the No. 1



Grammar schools. Such a change would be advantageous to the scholars transferred and to those remaining.

The practicability of such a transfer is respectfully suggested to the Committee and citizens.

The transportation of the scholars at Deerbrook to the Plains schools was discussed in the last Report. Nearly all of the scholars in that school are young. The homes of some of them are two miles from the Plains schools. The parents of these young children do not feel willing to have them taken to large schools so far from home.

The schools at North Purchase and Hopedale are divided into two grades, Primary and Grammar. The former contains all the classes of the Primary grades, the latter of the Grammar grades.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Thirteen Primary schools have been maintained the past year in the central part of the town. Last year two schools were managed by assistant teachers, one of the old Town House, the other at the Clafin. The lowest Primaries at West street, Sandbank and the Plains were crowded with scholars, numbering from 75 to 95 children. Such numbers of children are too large to be either well or economically taught by one teacher. Relief from this crowded condition was obtained by dispensing with the assistant's school at the old Town House and organizing the assistant's school in the Clafin into a separate school, and opening a school in the unoccupied room in the Clafin. It became necessary to transfer several scholars from other schools to the new school at the Clafin. The changes in the schools thus made have been attended with good results. The crowded condition of all of the Primary schools has been relieved. The new school in room No. 6 at the Clafin has advanced during the year from the Primary to a Grammar grade. The West and Fountain street schools have classes pursuing No. 4 Grammar school studies.

Several improvements have been made in the quality of the work in the Primary schools the past year. Reading, spelling and number are now taught more in accordance with sound pedagogical principles. Oral instruction is regularly given in Language and Geography. The improvements in writing and slate work have been very great. Writing is regularly taught; the younger scholars use their slates and pencils and rulers furnished them. Suitable copy books are then taken for "tracing" with lead pencils. Then follows the regular copy book with pencils. The scholars from this instruction will be well prepared for the use of the pen and ink when they enter the Grammar grade. A few minutes each day is devoted to singing in nearly all of these schools. Gymnastic exercises are properly interspersed giving changes in position and rest.

I take great pleasure in reporting that these schools are in a very prosperous condition. They are under the management of capable teachers who are deeply interested in their work.

Our Primary schools are second in importance to no other class of schools. Their present prosperous condition is a most encouraging evidence of educational reform and improvement.

#### GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

We have in Milford seventeen departments of the Grammar grades, including the Grammar schools at No. Purchase and Hopedale.

The changes made in the management and instruction of this class of schools have been marked and radical. In no other grade of schools are the evidences of improvement more manifest. That dreadful slowness which prevailed in the methods of promotion has been removed. In the three lower grades of the Grammar course the schools have been organized into one class and one grade instead of two classes and grades. In the No. 1 schools there must remain at present two classes and two grades, for want of accommodations. The three schools of this grade with six classes have an attendance of about 150 scholars. The efficiency of these schools would be much improved, and scholars would undoubtedly be better fitted for the High school, if all the scholars in the first class could be assembled in one room and placed under the charge of one teacher. Were it not for the supposed inconvenience to scholars, on account of distance, in meeting in one room, I should urge that change in a very earnest manner, upon the attention of the Committee and citizens. There are four classes in each Grammar school at North Purchase and Hopedale.

The present organization of the Grammar schools allows the average scholar to complete the course in five years; in the old course eight years were required.

The entire change made in text books used, except readers, has been instrumental of many improvements in these schools.

The teaching is now gradually becoming a normal work, and an educative process; it is steadily losing its abnormal characteristics as expressed by the terms "mechanical processes," "routine work," "memorizing," "cramming." The time and study required to learn the spelling of unknown and incomprehensible words, of committing to memory the detailed geography of foreign and distant localities, the unintelligible rules and discussions of technical and abstract Grammar, the irregular and puzzling questions of "Intellectual Arithmetic" so-called, the unnecessary rules, explanations, and problems in written arithmetic, is giving way, in a rapid manner, to careful and interesting work conducted by methods sensible and intelligent.



## ORAL COURSE.

A course for oral instruction, suited to the different grades, is now especially needed. This course should embrace a simple account of the history of the United States for the No. 4 classes, the simple elements of Physiology and Hygiene for No. 3 classes, the elements of Natural Philosophy or Physics for No. 2 classes, some practical method of keeping accounts and the elements of Republican government for No. 1 schools. I am fully convinced that teachers have time for such work. This oral course would rather assist than retard the work in the regular course. These additional elements would awaken a great interest for information on the part of the scholars, and would nurture and encourage the love of knowledge natural to children. The regular course is very barren of general information. Teachers would need suitable books for reference and guidance. A set of physiological plates would be needed by each school for the work in that branch. The scholars should have a copy of Hooker's Book of Nature or Houston's Outlines of Natural Philosophy for study in the No. 2 schools. The outlay for the oral course would be trifling, the benefits valuable.

## SINGING, DRAWING.

These subjects were discussed in the last Report. Suffice it to say, I think no person who has considered the advantages that would arise from having Singing and Free-Hand Drawing taught in our schools, questions the utility of these branches. Singing should be taught in each school, receiving a few minutes' attention each day, as a means of cultivating the voice and the aesthetic nature, of rest from the regular work, of relief to the restrained activities of the scholar, and of assuaging the tediousness of school life. Drawing should alternate with writing, receiving two lessons each week and writing three.

Gentlemen of the Committee and Citizens: I feel it my duty to report statements previously made, that, in my opinion, the course of study pursued in our common schools will be incomplete and defective, until provision is made for an oral course of instruction, and singing and drawing are incorporated into the course.

## READING.

The Franklin Readers were adopted in our schools in Aug. 1877. They form a good set of reading books.

Experience has shown that the grading of schools is liable to force pupils along at a rate too rapid for their mental growth. The mental level of the books rises more rapidly than the mind of the scholar expands. Children are often forced into readers one or two years in advance of their mental development. In that case they are unable to comprehend the meaning of their lessons. Then their reading becomes listless, mechanical, tiresome, non-express-



ive. This evil arises from the fact that children are logically expected to be ready when they have finished one book to take up a higher one. The sensible way to correct this evil is to furnish more reading matter of the suitable grade from other readers. The readers used answer well until the Fourth has been completed, which is done in the No. 4 Grammar classes. At this time when they enter Grade No. 3 their mental development is unequalled to the Fifth reader. I earnestly advise that Fourth readers from some other series be supplied scholars for use in the No. 3 schools. I think it would be advisable for the town to own these books, then they could be transferred from one school to another. We have four schools of this grade with about 240 scholars. I presume readers could be bought for 40 cents each. Scholars would then take the Franklin Fifth in No. 2. Only No. 1 classes should be allowed to use the Sixth reader.

#### CLAFLIN SCHOOLS.

There are three schools of Grammar grades in the Claflin, viz.: No. 3 Grammar grade in room, No. 4, the principal's, and No. 4 Grammar grade in rooms No. 5 and 6. I think it will be advisable to advance the grade in No. 4 to a number 2 Grammar grade; promote the scholars in No. 5 to other schools, and advance the school in No. 6 to a No. 3 Grammar grade. The promotions from No. 3 to No. 5 will preserve that a No. 4 Grammar grade. The schools in Nos. 1, 2 and 3 will continue Primary grades.

#### TEACHERS.

The teachers in the Grammar schools have discharged their duties in a more efficient manner than last year. I can report that they, without exception, have labored faithfully and diligently. The teachers who were promoted to the Grammar schools from other schools, or to a higher grade of school, have corroborated the wisdom of the appointments by their successful work.

While I am able to report very favorably of the improvements made, and of the progressive work going on in the District, Primary and Grammar schools, the past two terms, I have every reason to expect still further improvements from each teacher, during the Spring term, from their increased familiarity with the new text books, from the supply of reference books, and from the impetus and encouragements of the past term.

#### TEXT BOOKS.

The following list of books are more used in the District, Primary and Grammar schools:

READING. The Franklin Primer, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth readers. Teachers use Monroe's Vocal Gymnastics and three sets of Appleton's readers.

SPELLING. Teachers use Harvey's New Graded Speller.

WRITING. Payson, Dunton and Scribner's Penmanship, Primary books No. 2 for tracing, No. 3 for pencil or pen, Grammar books Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5. Teachers use the Manual in Penmanship and Blackboard Charts.

ARITHMETICS. White's Intermediate and White's Complete Arithmetics, White's Primary Arithmetic for teachers' guide in Primary classes. Teachers use Wentworth's Problems, Milnes Practical, Olney's Elements and Olney's Science of Arithmetic.

#### LANGUAGE.

Swinton's New Language Lessons and New English Grammar. Swinton's Language Primer for teachers, guide book in Primary schools. Teachers use Green's and Whitney's Grammars, Northend's Memory Gems, Loyd's Literature for Little Folks.

#### GEOGRAPHY.

Harper's Introductory, and Harper's School Geography. Our World for teachers in Primary grades.

#### HISTORY.

Barnes' Brief History of the United States, Goodrich Child's History for teachers in No. 4 Grammar classes.

#### GENERAL USE.

Wedgwood's Topical Analysis, Smart's Manual of Free Gymnastics, Webster's Academic and Webster's Unabridged Dictionaries.

*Examinations. Written Work.* — Public oral examinations, to which parents and friends have been invited, have been held in all schools near the close of each term. Parents have usually availed themselves of the opportunities of these occasions, and witnessed with apparent satisfaction the recitations and exercises of the school. I think that the increased number of visits the past year to the schools at examinations and other times, speaks favorably for an increased interest on the part of parents and friends.

More attention has been given this year to written work or written exercises in the different branches. This kind of work is improving the methods of teaching by securing a greater degree of precision and thoroughness, and the methods of studying by securing better attention and a more thoughtful and intelligent exercise of the powers of the scholar's mind.

Written examinations have been held in all the Grammar grades near the middle and close of each term. These exercises have tended in a liberal degree to improve the quality of work done by teacher and scholar. All this written work has contributed to improve the scholar's power of clear and accurate expression.

The following questions used May 22, 1878, for a written



examination in arithmetic and grammar in the No. 1 Grammar classes, are introduced to show the character of this work :

# ARITHMETIC.

Let all the work remain on paper.

1.

Define a common fraction. Explain the office of the numerator and denominator.

2.

If a man buys mutton at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds for  $43\frac{3}{4}$  cents, and beef at the rate of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  pounds for  $82\frac{1}{2}$  cents, what is difference in the cost of meat per pound?

3.

A trader sold 125 pounds of butter at 25 cents per pound, 24 pounds of cheese at 15 cents per pound, and a quantity of wheat at \$1.70 per bushel. With the proceeds he bought 17 tons of coal at \$7.50 per ton ; how many bushels of wheat did he sell?

4.

What will be the tax on a property invoiced at \$8,750, in a town that raises a tax of \$68,000 upon a valuation of \$2,825,400?

5.

A man fails in business with liabilities amounting to \$18,500. His assets are : goods, \$6,500 ; buildings and lot, \$4,285 ; furniture, \$280 ; horse and carriage, \$350 ; bills collectable, \$3,800. The expenses of settling will be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of his assets. How many cents can he pay on a dollar? What will A receive, who has a claim for \$5,000?

6.

What is the difference between True Discount and Bank Discount? Illustrate by composing and solving examples, using in both cases the same sum and rate.

7.

A man bought a carriage for \$150, expended three-fourths of one per cent. in repairs upon it, and then sold it for \$180. What was his gain per cent.?

8.

If 45 men can do a piece of work in 15 days, working 8 hours each day, in how many days can 30 men do the same, working 12 hours per day? Solve by proportion and analysis.

9.

What is the distance from the center to the corners of a square field, which contains eight acres? Illustrate by a diagram.



10.

If 4 piles of wood, each 80 feet long, 4 feet wide and 6 feet high, were placed together in the form of a cube, what would be the height of the cube?

 Classes that have not taken Cube Root, may solve the following:

How many feet of lumber will it take to enclose a building 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, height of posts 12 feet, the perpendicular height of the roof being 15 feet; no allowance made for windows, doors, projections or waste?

## GRAMMAR.

1.

In what cases will a collective noun as subject require a verb in the plural number?

2.

In what cases should a capital letter be used in writing, and a period in punctuation?

3.

Explain how the conjunction differs from the preposition in use. Illustrate the difference by sentences, underlining the illustrative words.

4.

The wretch, (1) concentrated all in self,  
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
And, (2) doubly dying, shall go down  
To vile dust, from whence he sprung,  
Unwept, unhonored, and unsung.

[*Scott.*]

Change the above extract to prose form of expression.

5.

Expand the participial phrases (1) and (2) to full sentences.

6,

Parse the words *all*, *and*, *down*, *from*, *whence*, *unwept*, in 4.

7.

Analyze the clause of which *shall go* is the simple predicate. What word does the clause *from whence he sprung* modify? What kind of a clause is this from its office?

8.

What is meant by the phrase *doubly dying*?

9.

Write a composition about Decoration Day, not exceeding fifty words, which shall contain at least one simple, one complex and one compound sentence. Enclose these sentences in brackets, and mark each one.

Write a letter to some member of the School Committee, applying for admission to the High School.

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

A very full account of the changes made in the course of study in the High school, has been given in the first part of this report. These changes have been heartily endorsed by the principal, teachers and scholars, and may now be considered as firmly incorporated into the organization of the school. Evidences of improvement are manifest in the working of the school. Scholars have evinced an increased interest in the work and exercises of the school. Very few scholars have dropped out of either course and left the school.

Fourteen young ladies and gentlemen completed the prescribed course of study last June, and received diplomas of graduation. Their names are as follows: Joseph H. Ambrose, Willie P. Cooke, Lowell E. Fales, William F. Gleason, Patrick R. Howley, Henry D. Nelson, Eugene W. Stoddard, Charles S. Weeks, Mary E. Bergin, Annie P. Cushing, Annie B. Drake, Agnes E. Kimball, Mary A. Lyons, Evie M. Wires.

Number entering the Fourth class last September, 71; present number, 69; present number in Third class, 21; Second class, 23; Senior class, 18. Number of scholars who have left the school for any cause since September 1878, 4.

Scholars neither absent nor late during the Fall term, 88; during Winter term, 61.

In answer to question 24 of the statistical report, viz: What are the leading causes or wants that delay progress in your school? The principal states in his reports for the two past terms, that the number of pupils is too large for the capacity of the main room to allow of proper means of ventilation. There is really need of another good sized school-room for the comfortable accommodation of the scholars. The subject of better means of ventilation and of additional room claims the attention of the Committee.

#### TEACHERS.

Mr. Silas W. Hale has been principal for nine years.

Miss Clara M. Howard has been first assistant teacher for eight years. Miss Anna W. Bancroft was chosen teacher in September in place of Miss Lucy W. Wilber, who was obliged to leave teaching on account of ill-health. Miss Lilla B. Godfrey was chosen teacher for half of the time at the beginning of the Winter term.

I desire to express to the Committee and citizens my unqualified approval of the able, faithful and untiring services rendered by the principal and teachers of the High school.



## TRAINING COURSE.

It may be well to invite attention to a new and valuable feature in the High school course. This is seen in the provisions for the study of Mental Science two terms, Moral Science one term, and reviews of the common branches two terms, during last year. Whilst these studies are of special value in practical life, they have a direct bearing as proper studies in preparing persons for teaching, and may well be considered as a part of a Training Course. If additional provisions could be made for some special drills and instruction during the course, upon matters pertaining to teaching, some lectures be given by the Committee or Superintendent upon the organization of schools, then, in my opinion, the graduates of the High school would be as well prepared for teaching in our schools as the graduates of the average Normal School.

## ATTENDANCE.

The present attendance in the High school is about six per cent. of the number of different scholars enrolled in all of the public schools. Had it not been for the large number who entered last September to pursue the English course, it is probable that this percentage would have been reduced to five and one-half. The small percentage of scholars attending the High schools is one of the leading causes that has awakened such earnest discussions concerning the maintenance of High schools at public expense. These discussions have led the managers of High schools to carefully examine their organization and working, and to introduce such changes as appear necessary to adapt the High school work to the condition and wants of its patrons. In the case of our own schools the gradual falling out of scholars, as the grades advance, is lamentable. We have to-day 300 scholars in the No. 4, or lowest Grammar grade, and only about 60 in the highest, or No. 1 grade. According to my ideas of wise school management, it is the imperative duty of school officers, teachers, superintendent and citizens, to exert all proper influences to induce scholars to remain in the Grammar schools, and in the High school, and that it is educational suicide for school officers, teachers or superintendent, to discourage such continuance. This rapid decrease of scholars, as they advance in the Grammar grades, and the small number attending the High school, shows some defect or weakness in our school system, which deserves the considerate attention of school officers, superintendent and teachers. It is to be hoped that the number attending the High school will steadily increase until it will equal ten per cent. of our scholars.

## TEXT BOOKS.

English Language and Literature. Swinton's English Grammar, Franklin Sixth Reader, Alden's Citizen's Manual, Swinton's Outlines of History, Hill's Rhetoric, Blaisdell's Hand-book of En-



glish Literature, Martin's Civil Government, Wayland's Political Economy. Mathematics, Palmer's Book-keeping, White's Complete Arithmetic, Smith's Free-hand Drawing, Bradbury's Elementary Algebra, Bradbury's Geometry and Plain Trigonometry, Davis' Surveying.

#### SCIENCE.

Houston's Physical Geography, Brown's Physiology and Hygiene, Avery's Natural Philosophy, Elliot & Storer's Chemistry, Dana's Geology, Rolfe and Gillett's Astronomy, Grey's Botany, Upham's Mental Science, Peabody's Moral Science.

#### PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Mrs. Mary J. Morgan has maintained, for the fifth year, a Kindergarten school on Jefferson street. She employs an assistant teacher, and has had 25 scholars, 10 boys and 15 girls, with an average attendance of 23 the past year.

Miss Ellen M. Ayres has a school in Grant Block of 50 scholars, 25 boys and 25 girls, employing an assistant. Her school has been in operation three years.

Miss A. O. Scammel has a school in the same building of 11 scholars, 6 boys and 5 girls. She has taught there three years.

A private school was opened last December in Hopedale, with Miss Olive Twitchell, teacher.

#### EVENING SCHOOL.

At the annual town meeting in March 1878, the town appropriated \$500 for the support of an Evening school and appointed the Selectmen, School Committee and Superintendent of schools as a committee to organize and manage that school. At the first meeting of this committee held soon after the Town Meeting, it was not deemed advisable to open the school at that season of the year, and the committee adjourned till September. At a meeting held on Sept. 2d, 1878, it was voted to open an evening school, and sub-committees were appointed to secure and prepare a room and to recommend a teacher. At a later meeting Mr. Charles J. Thompson was unanimously chosen instructor, and the sub-committee reported that a room in the town house had been furnished for the use of the school.

The following report from Mr. Thompson is here incorporated :

The Evening School began the first Monday evening in November. It was organized into two divisions, meeting alternate evenings. Those pupils wishing to study Book-keeping being in the first division, and all others in the second. At first the attendance was not large, but it gradually increased to about sixty in each division. After the cold weather and bad walking began, the attendance in the second division fell off. Some pupils came a distance of two or three miles, and found it difficult to attend. Others have joined

the day schools. From various causes the number has declined to thirty-five pupils, the average attendance being now about twenty-seven (27). In the first, or Book-keeping division, some who began found it impossible to continue, and the number fell to about fifty pupils, who have continued very steadily, so that the average attendance is now about forty-four. The studies pursued in this division are Book-keeping, Arithmetic and Spelling. The pupils of the second division are taught Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Spelling and a little Geography.

Of course, in the limited time given to each division, not very great progress can be made. A very good degree of interest is shown, especially in the first division, which is composed of young men, most of whom have already begun the battle of life on their own account, and who feel the need of a better preparation for its stern duties. They are anxious, attentive and diligent.

It has been asked if these two divisions could not be merged into one. It seems to be impracticable. The teacher takes nearly three hours with the first division, and over two hours with the second, at each session, and then leaves undone many things he wishes to do. Justice cannot be done to the studies in less time. Again, very few of the pupils can attend more than three evenings in the week.

The average age of the pupils in the first division is a little more than 19 years. In the second division its average is a little below 17 years.

One pupil, who had the reputation of being the originator of the plan of having an Evening School, and who for a few evenings was a very interested and interesting pupil, was, after a short illness, removed forever from all earthly discipline and tutorship. I allude to James Curley, whose honorable connection with this enterprise should be held in grateful remembrance by those receiving benefit from the school.

#### JANITORS.

The janitors for all the main buildings have been engaged by the Committee, and I am gratified to be able to report that, at the present time, they are discharging their duties in a satisfactory manner.

#### TRUANTS.

Mr. Thomas Donahoe and Mr. Benjamin F. Montague were appointed truant officers for the current school year. Mr. Donahoe reports that he has returned 40 different boys to school during the year. The action of the truant officers has had a favorable influence in decreasing the cases of truancy. Teachers have by their inquiries and activity exerted a strong influence in diminishing the cases of truancy.



## TARDINESS, DISMISSALS.

The numbers of cases of tardiness and dismissals in schools, have been less this year than the past. I attribute this favorable result to the work of teachers and co-operation of parents. Many of the cases of tardiness are owing to difference of time shown by different clocks. I am satisfied if the bell upon the Town House should be rung 15 minutes before the beginning of each session of school, thus establishing a uniform and known time, the cases of tardiness would be greatly lessened.

ATTENDANCE. The attendance for this year has been more regular than during the past. I attribute this in a great measure to the work of teachers and parents.

## SUPERINTENDENCY.

“The secret of good work is thorough inspection.” It is now generally conceded that a competent supervision is as essential to economy in school expenditures, and to progress and success in school work, as the services of a good agent or overseer to the successful management of any corporate or associate business. The Superintendent is the agent of the school board, with whom he should frequently advise. The board must determine the prudential duties which the Superintendent should perform, observant of the principles of true economy and the best interests of all concerned. He should be a suitable person to prepare courses of study, and give advice concerning text-books to be used. He should frequently inspect and examine the schools, carefully observing the working of the course of study and methods of instruction, and report to the Committee any changes that can be made which would render school work more productive of good results. It requires a trained or experienced education to perceive and understand the internal life of a school. To an inexperienced eye, recitations may have the appearance of perfection, when they may have been prepared without proper methods or without the proper objects of study, or have been given without a right exercise of mental action. Schools may appear to the uninformed eye to be in the best of order, when the quiet of the school-room is due to stupidity or to a system of government that is crushing out the best life of young minds. Herein occur the greatest wastes in a school system, because invisible to the common eye. The skilful supervisor will readily comprehend the state of affairs, and know how to apply the remedy by instructing the teacher in the true methods of teaching and governing, and thus avoid losses and detriment. He should endeavor to secure harmony and co-operation in the workings of the various departments of the school system, and adjust the differences arising between teachers in their work, and with the scholars and their parents. He should inquire into all matters pertaining to the condition of the school buildings, and



see that the health and comfort of scholars are cared for and promoted. He is expected to acquaint himself with the qualifications and efficiency of teachers, and counsel and aid them in the work of instructing and governing. It is safe to say that the measure of success attending the working of a system of schools, is dependent upon a thorough and efficient performance of the duties enumerated. It will be found that wherever intelligent and efficient supervision exists, schools take on a new life. A new interest is awakened. The teachers feel they are sustained by an influence which they alone are unable to exert. The people cheerfully become willing supporters of schools that make so good returns for what is expended for their support.

#### PARENTS.

Parents have special duties devolving upon them which pertain to the success of the schools. Among these may be named the duty of seeing that their children attend school regularly and are present on time, to co-operate with teachers and superintendent in promoting all that belongs to the discipline of the school, to see that scholars are reasonably supplied with needed books, and to encourage as far as practicable an acquaintance with the teacher personally, and inform her and advise with her concerning any mental or physical peculiarities of children. A little interest in school work, frequently shown by the parent, by way of kind inquiries of progress made, cheerful words of encouragement and approval spoken when the scholar is troubled and wavering, reproof and chastisement when needed, has a wonderfully good effect upon the progress and deportment of scholars.

#### SCHOLARS.

Whole number of different scholars.....	2349
Whole number 1878.....	2212
Increase .....	137
Number of boys.....	1218
Number of girls.....	1131
Number of boys over 15 years old.....	132
Number of girls       “       “ .....	106
Average daily attendance.....	1695
“       “       1878.....	1567
Increase .....	128
Ratio of average attendance to the whole number.....	.87
“       “       “       “       1878...	.71
Gain.....	.16

This increase in the number of scholars attending, in the average daily attendance, and the still more remarkable increase in the percentage of the average attendance, present incontrovertible facts, figures, which show that steady progress has been made, the past year, in the essential features of a prosperous school system.

Number of visits made by the superintendent .....	629
By the Committee .....	195
By citizens .....	1945
Number of children between 6 and 15 years of age enumerated by the assessors in May .....	2138
In 1878 .....	2193
Number of different schools .....	42

## CONCLUSION.

A cursory examination of this report will show many of the various subjects, supervisory or prudential, which have occupied my time and thought the past school year. All of those subjects which have related to changes in courses of study and text books, have required careful thought in devising the plans and skilful management in executing them. It is a matter of profound congratulation that all of these great changes have been successfully made in a quiet manner.

With renewed expressions of gratitude to the School Committee, teachers, and citizens, for confidence reposed,

Respectfully,

JOHN W. SIMONDS,

Superintendent of Public Schools.

## TABULAR SUMMARY.

The statistics here reported are believed to be fully reliable. They have been made with great care, based upon returns made from the teachers' registrars.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

SCHOOLS.	TEACHERS.	Whole Number of different Scholars.		Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance.
		BOYS.	GIRLS.		
Number 2.....	Julia M. Barry.....	62	50	60	.86
" 4.....	Annie E. Sheldon.....	56	53	52	.79
" 5.....	Susan R. Broderick.....	18	18	29	.78
" 6.....	Maggie F. Madden.....	42	44	60	.76
" 7.....	Maggie L. Murphy.....	25	25	41	.87
" 9.....	Mary E. Cochrane.....	65	49	63	.77
" 10.....	Mary J. Kelley.....	19	26	29	.75
" 11.....	Annie L. Adams.....	32	25	40	.90
" 12.....	Augusta A. Cay.....	36	35	49	.76
" 13.....	S. Eldora Sheldon.....	31	32	44	.89
" 14.....	Jennie L. Goodrich.....	39	30	41	.73
" 15.....	Sarah F. Burns.....	33	28	50	.90
Clafin No. 3....	Susan E. Inman.....	29	46	54	.89
" " 2....	* Kate Chapin.....	45	33	46	.64
" " 1....	Delia E. Gleason.....	122	104	67	.76
Total, 15 schools.....		654	598	725	.87

## DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Silver Hill.....	A. Oreanna Cheney.....	12	10	19	.78
City.....	Julia E. Connolly.....	28	15	20	.81
South Milford...	Eva E. Norcross.....	21	13	26	.92
Bear Hill.....	Kate A. Wallace....	21	15	33	.87
Braggville .....	Emily T. Hart.....	20	13	25	.85
Deerbrook.....	Flora N. Knowlton.....	10	2	8	.81
Total, 6 schools.....		112	68	131	.84

## GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Park No. 1.....	Mrs. Jane A. Whiting.....	13	13	32	.94
" 2.....	Sara C. Belcher.....	18	25	42	.93
" 3.....	Mary J. Kelley.....	24	46	53	.93
" 4.....	Ada A. Skinner.....	31	36	56	.89
North No. 1.....	Helen S. Eames.....	33	34	42	.95
" 2.....	Alice B. Chapin.....	32	31	32	.78
" 3.....	Ellen A. Moriarty.....	24	10	31	.88
" 4.....	Mary F. Divine.....	29	22	54	.93
South No. 1.....	Minnie I. Folger.....	24	27	39	.94
" 2.....	Carra V. Sadler.....	32	19	51	.91
" 3.....	Lilla A. Cook.....	40	31	53	.82
" 4.....	Mary F. Aylward.....	38	28	54	.88
Clafin No. 4....	Kate E. Martin.....	26	31	50	.87
" 5....	Jennie M. Russell.....	20	29	35	.78
" 6....	† Faustina M. Knight .....	18	30	38	.86
Hopedale.....	Minnie L. Mann.....	27	21	31	.86
No. Purchase....	Carrie L. Harris.....	29	24	32	.84
Total, 17 schools.....		458	457	725	.92

## HIGH SCHOOL.

	Silas W. Hale, <i>Principal</i> .....	76	69	114	.97
	Clara M. Howard, <i>Teacher</i> .....				
	Anna M. Bancroft, " .....				
	Lydia B. Godfrey, " .....				
Total, 4 schools.....		76	69	114	.97

\* This school was organized in September. All of the scholars were registered in other schools, except 11 boys and 21 girls.

† This school was organized in September. All of the scholars, except one girl, had been registered in other schools.





